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In Business Update

STANDING OVATION TIME AT SCHOOL SHOW!



Porthcawl Comprehensive School put on a high-quality, high-energy show last week in the Grand Pavilion, as the cast fell under the spell of a man-eating plant in the musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. For a review, cast list and more photographs by Malcolm Nugent, see pages 14 and 28.
By the way, the four characters wearing what could be daffodils, are not getting ready for the Six Nations. If you don't know why, well you should have seen the show!

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Woman resident complains that her recycling was just 'thrown into street'

FOOTAGE posted on YouTube by a resident of Pencoeed appears to show recycling staff throwing household rubbish, destined for recycling, into the street, writes **ANDY JOHNSTONE**.

Yvonne Mainwaring, a resident of Maerdy Park, contacted The GEM with a litany of complaints against recycling staff employed by Kier Group, under contract to Bridgend County Borough Council (CBC).

The complaints, according to Mrs Mainwaring, cover some four or five incidents since March last year, include refusing to take items for recycling, leaving items scattered on the road, and being abusive to her.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 260)

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Civic society is looking for new members

Porthcawl Civic Trust is keen to boost its membership, and it appears that concern about possible development at Salt Lake Car Park is a significant factor.

The society has released the following letter:

The Porthcawl Civic Society was formed in 1970 and is one of a number of civic trusts to be found in Wales.

The main aims of the society as set out in its constitution are to:

- Stimulate public interest in Porthcawl and district.
- Promote high standards of planning and architecture in Porthcawl and district.
- Secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historical and public interest in Porthcawl and district.

Over the past 46 years, the society has raised a large number of issues with local authorities, many of which have been resolved to the society's satisfaction although others have met with disappointing results.

The society has also actively supported and continues to support Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) in its bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery fund.

Currently, there are a number of developments taking place in the town which the society is pleased to support, in particular the proposed Maritime Centre to be built on Cosy Corner.

Support for other developments, including the re-development of the Jennings Warehouse and the new state of the art primary care centre to be built at Mallards Way (a site next to the existing Portway surgery would have been preferred) is slightly more muted.

However, it is expected that all these developments will bring considerable benefits to the town.

However, Porthcawl will never be recognised as a 'premier seaside resort' as envisaged by BCBC until the visual quality of Salt Lake car park is significantly improved.

BCBC's latest proposals are still awaited but the fear is that, once again, BCBC will ignore the wishes of residents and plough on with its original plan to urbanise Salt Lake.

The society is in no doubt that the majority of residents would prefer Salt Lake to be converted into an attractive open space for use by both residents and visitors to the town, although part of the area needs to be left for much-needed car parking.

If our concerns prove to be true, then we can only urge BCBC to consult all Porthcawl residents and call a town meeting before any final decision is made.

If you share these views and would like to support the society, please email us on porthcawlcivictrust@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website (porthcawlcivictrustociety.co.uk) to download a membership application form.

Membership costs only £6 a year (£8 for a family). The bigger our membership, the louder our voice.

Don Tickner

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TV PRESENTER CONGRATULATES BRIDGEND VOLUNTEER GROUP



Roy Noble (centre) spoke at BAVO's AGM.

THE radio and TV presenter Roy Noble OBE, recently joined Bridgend

Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) to celebrate its recent

achievements at their Annual General Meeting in The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

Roy Noble said: "Voluntary organisations are the cement in the walls of society. They provide the extras and, in many cases, the essentials, in the needs of individuals and communities."

"To achieve this, they need support and guidance and in the Bridgend county borough area, BAVO is just such a lynchpin." BAVO was set up as an umbrella organisation to develop and promote voluntary and community action throughout the county borough.

Heidi Bennett, BAVO's chief executive officer said: "BAVO again had a busy year, responding to over 1,800 enquiries and gaining over £750,000 new inward investment for local activity, facilities and causes. "Full details can be found by reading our latest Annual Impact Report for 2015/16 at www.bavo.org.uk

"Like many charitable organisations, we have continued to experience reductions to our core funding and we have worked hard to ensure that resources are targeted to deliver what the voluntary

sector needs as efficiently as possible.

"We are extremely grateful to those partners and funders with whom we enjoy a well-established and mature relationship."

"Without them we would not be able to deliver the services we currently offer."

The guest speaker, Coun Ceri Reeves, said:

"The valuable contribution made by BAVO and their members is vitally important to the wellbeing of local people and to the quality of life within the county borough."

If you represent a voluntary or not-for-profit organisation or group within Bridgend county borough, BAVO can provide support, guidance, practical assistance and information to develop skills, services and activities, ensuring groups are represented across a wide range of issues locally, regionally and nationally. For further details, telephone 01656 810400.

Hospital orthoptists share their expertise



Health Secretary Vaughan Gething with (from left) Caroline Bodycombe, Alan Ashcroft, Suzanne Martin, Karen Phillips and Judith Downs during his visit to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

HEALTH Secretary Vaughan Gething has been given a close-up look at how eye health care is developing for Welsh patients.

On a visit to the orthoptic clinic at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, he met staff who explained the range of services and treatments they can offer to help patients living in ABMU Health Board area.

Orthoptists are health professionals who work alongside other eye specialists to diagnose and treat patients with eye problems such as squints or double vision.

Mr Gething was greeted by Karen Phillips, head of ABMU's orthoptic services, which currently account for a third of the orthoptic workforce in Wales, including only five advanced orthoptic practitioners.

She explained how staff across the profession are now developing their skills to expand the role of orthoptists and what treatments they can deliver to

patients: "As a small profession, we are relatively unknown and it's been a great opportunity for us to demonstrate our input into Welsh eye care."

During his tour, Mr Gething talked to Suzanne Martin, the first orthoptist in Wales qualified to give injections directly into the eye to treat conditions such as wet age-related macular degeneration and diabetic macular oedema.

He also met staff who specialise in dealing with conditions such as glaucoma, patients who have had strokes or have learning difficulties and children with visual problems affecting their reading.

The team members shared their vision for how their diagnostic techniques and clinical interpretation skills can be put to wider use in the future.

Mr Gething said: "This is a good example of how different staff can do different things and how we are taking advantage of that variety of skills to help our patients."

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
02 Thur	09.57	9.5	22.16	9.3
03 Fri	10.41	8.9	23.07	8.6
04 Sat	11.31	8.4	23.59	8.3
05 Sun			12.41	8.3
06 Mon	01.18	8.1	14.03	8.2
07 Tues	02.42	8.2	15.23	8.4
08 Wed	03.57	8.6	16.31	8.8
09 Thur	05.15	8.8	17.42	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 3LG Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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Mystery of dead puppies found in a clothing bank

FOUR tiny dead puppies have been found in a Salvation Army clothing bank in Pencoed.

The pups were discovered in the bank at a Co-op shop, at the Square, in Pencoed on Saturday, January 21, after being found by a member of the public.

RSPCA Cymru is urging anyone who may have any information about the incident to contact the charity.

It is unclear what breed the puppies, are due to their tender age - and it is possible they were dumped after being stillborn. They were a mixture of black, white and grey in colour.

The clothing bank had previously been emptied on January 17, so the puppies had been dumped in the container at some point in the four

days which followed. RSPCA inspector Leigh Summers said: "It is completely unclear why these puppies were dumped in this clothing bank in this way."

"The tiny puppies were newborn - so may have been stillborn, but we'd like to decipher more information about the circumstances behind this unusual incident."

"We're urging anyone who may know anything about this matter in the Pencoed area, to contact our inspectorate appeal line, on 0300 123 8018. Calls are treated in confidence."

Should you wish to support the RSPCA, you can give £3 now by texting LOVE to 87023 (text costs £3 + one standard network rate message). We are a charity and rely on public donations to exist.



Pencoed Comprehensive School pupils are pictured leaving the school for the Memorial Day event.

Pencoed students attend Holocaust Memorial Day

PENCOED Comprehensive School students from years 11 to 13, accompanied by Miss S Williams and Miss K Needs, attended the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event at Bridgend College.

The day was organised by the Holocaust Memorial Trust with this year's theme of 'How can life go on?'

The Mayor lit the Holocaust Memorial Day candle, which burnt throughout the service. Rabbi Michael Rose read a Jewish prayer and a student from Bridgend College read the life story of Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, who sadly passed away last year.

Seven representatives of the county, including the youth Mayor, read out statements of commitment to ensure the Holocaust is remembered and that it does not happen again.

Pencoed students were privileged to hear the testimony of Antoinette Mushimiimana, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, who shared her harrowing story which included her family being killed for belonging to a different tribe.

Antoinette spoke of forgiveness and how she had recently visited her

brother-in-law who is in prison for killing his wife, her sister, in the hopes of reconciliation. Father Tim McGrath

recited a poem called *The Creed of a Holocaust Survivor*, before the proceedings came to an end with a

performance of 'Somewhere Over a Rainbow' by two performing arts students.

Hospital bed increase too little, too late - SAYS TORY AM

PLANS by health bosses in Bridgend to provide extra beds at the Princess of Wales Hospital have been branded as "too little, too late" by Regional AM Suzy Davies.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM, said that the announcement that 30 extra beds are to be provided in a pre-modular building to be erected at the hospital was welcome.

She said: "Over the past decade, the Welsh NHS has lost 20 per cent of its beds. The Welsh Labour Government has presided over this, and I believe it has left our hospitals in chaos over winter periods when A&E departments are overwhelmed by demand."

"There's no escaping that the cut in

bed numbers in all disciplines and hospitals went too far. Welsh Conservatives in Bridgend and Ogmore fought the Assembly elections in May on a platform that included a call for additional beds in the system, so I am pleased that somebody was listening."

"However, it will take a lot of time to turn the situation around. I put the blame squarely on the shoulders of the Welsh Government which took the disastrous decision in the 2011 budget to cut £1 billion from the Welsh NHS over a five-year period. That decision is still reverberating around the wards and corridors of our hospitals."

"The £7 million being spent by ABMU on this unit and a similar one at Morriston Hospital is a welcome start, but it cannot stop here."

Posh Pawz would like to introduce Maddie Davies!



MADDIE has been working with Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz, Rhoose, for almost a year bathing and drying, and is now taking appointments.

She has recently completed her grooming course at Pencoed College and the salon are very happy that she will be developing her skills further with them.

Training grooms will be available from February 1 - 20 per cent

off first appointment - and if you book and attend a second appointment with Maddie, there is a 15 per cent discount. Full groom prices thereafter; only open at the moment to certain breeds. This offer is available to new, existing and returning clients.

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CHURCH COMPLETES £170,000 RESTORATION

PICTURED (left to right): Rev Sue Rees, Bishop David and Averill Wintle.



A RHONDDA CYNON TAF church has undergone a £170,000 refurbishment project – to make it fit for 21st century worship.

A service of thanksgiving was held at St Iltyd's Church in Llanharry recently to celebrate the makeover, which has improved the fabric of the church and preserved it for future generations.

The restoration was made possible because of a £100,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Work included a new roof for

the nave, repairs to the stained glass windows, the church walls and the porch, internal decorating and the installation of new central heating.

Parish priest Reverend Sue Rees said: "The church was able to access HLF funding in order to carry out the urgent works that were

needed to the building, enabling a major makeover of St Iltyd's. The project came about thanks to the drive and encouragement of parishioners and many local people.

"The whole point of this refurbishment was to secure the church fabric for the future service of the community and as a springboard for God's mission in Llanharry."

Averill Wintle, the project officer for the church said: "The church is available for the use of the whole community and we hope this will provide a positive contribution to those who live and work in Llanharry."

The project was also funded through an award of £25,964 from Cadw, a donation of £7,500 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and donations from a number of other bodies.

Parishioners also raised money through concerts, raffles, a community shop and appeals to local businesses and shops.

Many also took home collection boxes to collect loose change.

Assistant Bishop of Llandaff David Wilbourne said: "It was a pleasure to rededicate St Iltyd's, whose re-ordering is imaginative and strongly supported by the local community."

"It has made the church fit for purpose to address that community's needs and hurting points, as well as offering a distinct and viable worship space in which holiness can dawn."

Richard Bellamy, head of HLF in Wales, said: "Wales' historic and diverse places of worship are so often at the heart of our communities."

"Thanks to National Lottery players, HLF funds urgent structural repairs and also improved facilities and visitor information. St Iltyd's Church in Llanharry is an excellent example of how HLF can help conserve a much loved building so it can continue to serve its local community."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr P G and E Leith – works to improve existing sea defence.

Plot at Jenners, Telecom Drive, Bryn Road, Aberkenfig – New three bedroom bungalow and garage.

Darren Powell – 4 signs.

Ramsey Close, Porthcawl – Single storey rear extension with a first floor sun roof to extend kitchen/dining and utility room facilities, including fenestration/general finishes improvements, new canopy over entrance door at front of the property and new roof terrace above single storey rear extension.

Mr K Patel – 100 New Road, Porthcawl – Change of use from shop and storage into two self-contained flats.

Mrs Margaret Aylen – 37 Camberwell Avenue, Bridgend – Ramped access arrangements from public footpath to front entrance.

Mr Alun Davies – Ynysslas Uchaf Farm, Blackmill Road, Brynecethin – New agricultural shed to run behind stables.

Westside Homes Limited – Land at Quarella Road, Bridgend – Erection of 10 detached houses.

The Food Shed – Dylans, Bryn Celyn, Maesteg – Installation of commercial kitchen in the basement to extend community meal service. Remaining space to be used for office space, cafe, and local community events.

Mr Walter Coughlin – 55 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl – Dormer extension.

Mr Jonathon David – Land adjacent to Tynewydd, Waterton Lane, Bridgend – Fell sycamore trees as it has a large amount of rot to its base.

Natural Resources Wales – Porthcawl town beach, adjacent to the Promenade – Marine

works to improve existing sea defence.

Dunelm – Unit 1, Parc Plaza Retail Park, Waterton Road, Bridgend – Six internally illuminated building signs.

Mr Dennis Woodham – 29 Beach Road, Pyle – Addition of single storey extension, timber deck and step lift to the rear elevation.

Trecco Bay Holiday Park – St Johns Drive, The Meadows and Caravan Site Access Road, Newton, Porthcawl – Alteration and extension of existing external kiosk to include facilities for sale of alcoholic beverages.

Mr and Mr J Edwards – Longacre Farm, Heol Byeastwood, Coity – Erection of first floor extension to existing dwelling.

NHS Wales Shared Services – Former Sanken Power Systems – Change of use of the existing building from B1/B2/B8 to B1/D1 (education and training establishment).

Taylor Wimpey – Land at Brackla Industrial Estate – Discharge of condition 4 of P116/337/RES.

Mr Jason Hiscocks – 16 Pant Hendre, Pencoed – Internal garage converted to living accommodation.

Miss Yasamin Ahrabi – Plot 2, Abergarw Farm site, Brynmenyn – Full planning for reserved matters, Plot 2, Abergarw Farm Site.

Mrs Margaret Cavaghan – Ty Maen Cottage, Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly – Porch to the front of the property to be completed in white/glass as per existing walls. Drainage to be corrected to eliminate current rising damp problem. Relocation of external gas meter.

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AN AM JOINS PUPILS ON 'LAB IN A LORRY'



Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive School pupils with AM Suzy Davies.

RECENTLY, pupils from Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive School in Bridgend, were joined on the 'Lab in a Lorry' by a regional AM.

The mobile laboratory, owned by the Institute of Physics, tours Wales giving pupils a chance to hop aboard and take part in a variety of experiments involving basic physics.

Welsh Conservative AM Suzy Davies said: "This lab is great for making physics jump off the page or screen. This visit was all about understanding sound and light and seeing how that knowledge

transfers to real applications. Not many GCSE students get to practise with the kind of equipment you would use in keyhole surgery.

"Taking the fear out of physics and making it enjoyable and meaningful is part of encouraging children to consider a career which involves science – its applications go well beyond the white coat and the lab.

"It's also part of encouraging the next generation of teachers. Wales needs enough science teachers to prepare the workforce we will need to turn research into opportunities for an economy based on knowledge, service and manufacturing."

"The fact that the tiny number of full time staff on the lorry are supported by volunteers from the local community is key to the success of this lab. Coming from local industry, they bring their own life-experiences to the project and show pupils that 'people like them' can use science in so many ways and build a fulfilling career on what they are learning. I was very impressed."

Wales is now the only part of the UK that has the use of a lab in a lorry as funding for doing the work in other parts of the country has ceased. The Institute also helps schools with the training of science teachers.

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GP surgeries' plan aims for healthy hearts

ABMU has launched a programme aimed at reducing the number of people dying prematurely from cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the Bridgend north area.

Eight Bridgend north GP surgeries, in partnership with ABMU health board and local organisations, have launched the latest stage of a Wales-wide pilot programme to help residents in their area live a healthier life for longer.

Evidence shows that people living in deprived areas such as the north of Bridgend county, are likely to have shorter healthy lives by up to 21.5 years and, are at greater risk of CVD, when compared to people living in affluent areas.

There are a number of types of CVD. The main ones are coronary heart disease – angina, heart attacks and heart failure; strokes and mini strokes.

The CVD programme will see people aged 40–64 years living in the north of Bridgend, who don't often go to their GP, being invited to a 'lifestyle assessment' with a health care support worker (HCSW). The HCSW explains

what CVD is and how it can impact on your life. By using information people provide about themselves, the HCSW is then able to assess the likelihood of the individual suffering from CVD. If risks are found, the HCSW then supports the individual to decide on and make positive changes helping them to feel better and live a longer healthier life.

Lead clinician for the programme, Tynycoed GP Dr Sara Jones, said: "Everyone should be able to live a long healthy life and see their family grow-up no matter where they live. We want to help the residents in our area to do just that. "We have the resources available to help and support them to make simple changes to their lifestyle, reducing the chances of them becoming ill and dying prematurely."

The project will begin in Tynycoed and Aberkenfig surgeries in the next month, with staggered launches for the following surgeries: Nantymoel Surgery; Pontycwmmer Surgery; Woodlands Surgery; Bron-Y-Garn Surgery; Llynfi Surgery and Ogmere Vale Surgery.

Residents will be invited by letter for an assessment over the next 18 months.

IRON HORSES GO ON A VINTAGE RUN... BUT AT THEIR OWN PACE!



Short story competition has opened

THERE is only one month to go until the closing date of the Bridgend Writers' Circle 2017 open short story competition.

There is no set theme this year, so the choice of topic is yours!

Stories must be typed, between 1,500 and 1,800 words, and sent as a hard copy.

Please use correct postage. The rules and conditions and the entry form, can be found online.

Simply search for Bridgend Writers' Circle on the internet.

The entry fee is £5, or £7.50 for two stories. Prizes are £200, £50 and £30. There are also prizes for local runners-up.

We thank Chapter Art Centre, Cardiff, for their continued support and local author Laura Foakes, who will judge the competition.

JANINE ENOS
open competition coordinator
jenos51@hotmail.co.uk



The tractors arrive at Porthcawl.

THE Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society's January charity tractor run, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, took place on Sunday, January 22.

It was a rather cold, overcast morning at Cwm Risca Farm, the starting point for the annual run. A total of 45 tractors and a couple of 4 x 4s signed in at 10am: tea, coffee, Welsh cakes and biscuits were the order of the day!

The pre-planned route, from Cwm Risca Farm over Mynydd Baeden, was to be enjoyed before re-joining the tarmac north of Kenfig Hill. Then it was on to Pyle



and down to a planned stop at Porthcawl.

Refuelling took place at 'Mansel's' (much appreciated) and then it was on to Brackla in Bridgend for dinner – a round trip of about 22 miles.

Chairman Richard

Rees reported: "As always, a very enjoyable run, although I must apologise for the late arrival at Salt Lake – these old tractors do play up from time to time!"

He went on: "A big thank you to the Anthony family, Cwm Risca

Farm, the Evans family, Coney Beach and Mansel for the teas and coffees.

"The run generated £800 for the Wales Air Ambulance. Most of all, a big thank you to the drivers and the public who turned out to see us."

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Astronomy corner...

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Astronomical Society's February meeting takes place at 7.30pm on Friday, February 10, at Pyle Church Hall.

Professor Chris Allton of Swansea University will be discussing 'Neutron Stars and Other Extreme Matter'.

Did you know that if you could take a spoonful of neutron star material, it would weigh as much as Mount Everest? Fascinating! All are welcome.

During March, the society will be offering an open astronomical observing opportunity. It will take place in the grounds of Pencoed Comprehensive School but, for obvious reasons, the date is not yet fixed as it will be weather dependent.

There will be an update next month and full up to the minute details will be available through March on our website: www.bridgendastronomicalsociety.co.uk

What's up?

FEBRUARY is a good month for planet sightings: from the end of January until February



Professor Chris Allton.

5, you cannot fail to see Venus in the south west. But on these nights, you can also see Mars lying up to its left. Its reddish colour makes it unmistakable. Also in the south west before dawn on February 15, Jupiter can be seen to the lower left of the moon.

A decent pair of binoculars will afford a fine sight of Jupiter's four Galilean moons strung out on either side of the planet; one or two of these may be hidden, however, if they are behind the planet when you are observing.

Binoculars also provide fascinating sights of our own moon, especially along the day/night terminator. Never, ever look at the Sun through binoculars.

Returning to our planetary neighbours, Saturn can be seen before dawn on February 21 in the south east, to the lower right of a thin crescent moon.

NORMAN LLOYD

Marie Curie's Daffodil call for volunteers

AS we see the first daffodils of the year bloom, the Marie Curie charity is asking the people of Bridgend to volunteer to collect for its Great Daffodil Appeal in February and March.

Volunteering two hours of your time to give out daffodil pins, in return for a donation, can help Marie Curie nurses be there for people living with a terminal illness in their own homes, a spokesperson reports.

The Great Daffodil Appeal is Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraising campaign, which takes place throughout March, but the charity needs people to sign up to volunteer now.

Actress Jane Horrocks, who volunteered her time to voice a radio and TV ad for the appeal, said: "This February and March, the charity needs more than 24,000 volunteers to make the Great Daffodil Appeal happen.

Please give up some of your time to ensure that Marie Curie nurses can continue to provide care and support to people living with a terminal illness, at a time when they need it most. Together, we can make every daffodil count this March!"

Hannah Leckie, community fundraiser Marie Curie said: "All you have to do is encourage people to give a donation and wear a daffodil pin, it's that simple."

Kelvin Carter, Marie Curie collector and face of The Great Daffodil Appeal, said: "Sylvia, my first wife, was a Marie Curie nurse. She enjoyed being in a position to be able to help people, that was why she did nursing."

"When Sylvia was diagnosed with cancer, I knew that I couldn't do her justice in looking after her in the way that she deserved to be. The Marie Curie hospice

where she worked offered to look after her and I was absolutely delighted to think that the people who had worked with her, and loved her, were able to care for her.

"It was amazing - it couldn't have been better. I raise money for the appeal in Sylvia's memory. Two hours spent collecting isn't a lot of time but every second counts. I would encourage anyone to collect - if I can do it, you can too!"

Volunteer to support now at mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil or call 0800 304 7025*.

For more information on how to get involved in the Great Daffodil Appeal, contact Laura Davies, at laura.davies2@mariecurie.org.uk, or west Wales fundraising office at 01554 759071.

'The Holocaust must never be forgotten' - says the Ogmore AM

THE Holocaust Educational Trust held a series of events throughout January, marking this year's Holocaust Memorial Day which took place on January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi death camp.

At the Senedd recently, Ogmore Labour AM, Huw Irranca-Davies, and Welsh Government colleagues were given an opportunity to sign the Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment - to reaffirm their commitment to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Mr Irranca-Davies pledged his continued support and said: "It is essential that victims and survivors of the largest mass murder in history are not

forgotten and that the message is not lost.

"That message is as important today as ever: we must confront and challenge at every turn all those who spout hatred and division, because this is where the seeds of genocide flourish.

"No one should be victimised because of their race, creed or colour, or sexuality, or because they are trade unionists or political agitators. Democracy dies unless we challenge bigotry and hatred, and as the Holocaust and every genocide since teaches us, generations of innocent people die too.

"The extraordinary Holocaust survivors work tirelessly to ensure we learn and re-learn these lessons, and it is great to hear of so many people participating in the many commemorative events being held throughout the country. We must never forget."



Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies: "Holocaust message is as important today as ever."

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New course takes Wales and Welsh to the wide world

THE Open University has launched an online course which will give learners an insight into Welsh history and culture and help them to learn basic Welsh language skills.

'Discovering Wales and Welsh' was launched last week at the Senedd by the Assembly's presiding officer, Elin Jones AM, and director of The Open University (OU) in Wales, Rob Humphreys.

The course can be

studied flexibly with students able to register at any time. It offers the chance to explore key aspects of Welsh culture and takes learners through basic Welsh language skills.

It is designed in particular for people who live outside Wales or who may have come to live in Wales. The global reach of the OU means that the course can be followed anywhere in the world with access the internet.

For more information, visit www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lg001.

Students get bilingually creative

Actors Rhys ap William and Rhyddian Bowen-Phillips holding a bilingual workshop for performing arts students.

PERFORMING arts students from Cardiff and Vale College have had an insight into the benefits of speaking Welsh in the creative industries with a visit from actors Rhys ap William and Rhyddian Bowen-Phillips.



Rhys ap William has worked in theatre and has an extensive portfolio of voiceover and TV work, including the recent National Theatre of Wales show 'Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage' about the life of Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas. He also acts in S4C's *Byw Celydd*, scenes of which are filmed at the college's city centre campus.

Rhyddian Bowen-Phillips is a voiceover artist, actor and presenter who currently performs voiceover work for Sky and presents a programme on 'Made in Cardiff' about Cardiff City Football Club.

Rhys and Rhyddian came to the college's 'Theatr Michael Sheen' at its city centre campus to see the performing arts students as part of the college's enrichment programme, with the support of the Welsh language team.

CAVC's B#Epic enrichment programme aims to give students additional employability and entrepreneurial skills by introducing them to the world of work.

The two actors talked about their training, being self-employed and dealing with agents, and gave an overview of their careers.

The learners then split into two groups – one worked with Rhys on a monologue from 'Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage' and the other with Rhyddian on a voiceover he did from the recent Roald Dahl celebrations.

The workshop closed with a Q&A session which gave students an opportunity to ask for advice and pick up tips

about the industry.

"Doing workshops can sometimes be testing but at CAVC it was an absolute pleasure," Rhys said afterwards.

"What a great building and what a great little theatre – the only thing to top that was the great

students and staff."

Rhyddian added: "It's always nice to be asked to take part in things like this, but it's even nicer when the students are so appreciative and willing to take things on board."

The students also found it a positive

experience. "It was an

eye-opening experience which really helped me develop my acting skills," said 18-year-old Jac Elias-Williams from Penarth.

GEM readers highlight road safety concerns

GEM readers were keen to express their views on road safety issues following an article we ran last week.

Loretta Webber highlighted a junction with Barry Road, and argued for a 20mph speed limit locally.

"I would like to highlight the difficulty on the junction of Orchard Drive leading onto Barry Road.

"There are double yellow lines on both sides of the junction on the main Barry Road but these do not extend around the corners into Orchard Drive. "There is a bus stop on the right corner with a very large tree which restricts the view.

"Cars and vans are parked on both sides of Barry Road (on the yellow lines) and the entrance to Orchard Drive.

"On most occasions you have to pull right out onto the main road (Barry Road) to check for traffic both ways

especially coming up Crogan Hill.

"This is very dangerous. As much as we love trees I think removing the tree would enable better vision along with enforcing the law about parking on double yellow lines.

"I am also in favour of a speed limit of say 20 miles per hour around town." Rory Newman was keen to point out a cause for concern in Sully.

"I realised there is a lane on the left hand side as you go up Arlington Road, Sully.

"There is no pedestrian barrier to stop children running or cycling straight onto the road and no double yellow lines which are very much needed as several vans park across the lane obscuring a motorist's view.

"The vans also create a hazard for anyone turning out of the Brean Close junction as they are often faced with on-coming traffic on their side of the road."

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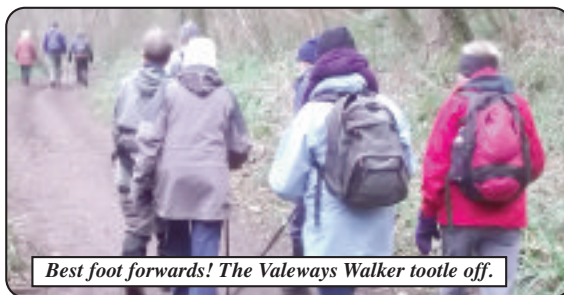
A chilly day, but warm friendship for the Valeways walkers

IT was a cold morning as 13 walkers joined John at the Merrie Harrier for this Valeways walk.

They set off and passed behind the Baptist chapel and over fields to reach Pen y Turnpike Road. As they went, they were greeted by several horses that seemed to want to join the walk.

Crossing the road, they headed towards Michaelston le Pit and soon turned into Case Hill woods. The woods were showing signs of spring with the bluebells beginning to come up.

They crossed the Cadoxton river and walked into Cwm George. On this popular route they



Best foot forwards! The Valeways Walker tootle off.

passed several other walkers and dogs, finally arriving at the road in Michaelston. The bridge over the river at this point provided good seating for a coffee stop.

Suitably refreshed, the group carried on up the river valley passing the salmon ponds to join

a track close to Wrinstone Farm. They walked past Beauville to reach 'One O'Clock Gate'.

(If you want to know why it is so called, go to dpgc.co.uk/about/history/.)

Ignoring the path over the golf course, the group turned into Coed Clwyd Gwyn to rejoin the path through Cwm George. Turning right and after about 250 yards they left the valley to cross fields and the river again to join the path through Case Hill.

From here, they retraced their steps to the pub for welcome food and drink. Many thanks to the Merrie Harrier for hospitality and the use of the car park.

JOHN TREBY
Valeways walk leader

Smear test warning

CALLS from Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to increase cervical screening uptake rates in the Vale have been backed by South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies.

Cervical screening uptake is declining, and more than one in five eligible women in Wales did not attend one last year. At the same time, more women were diagnosed with cervical cancer than before.

Around 5 million women across the UK are invited to attend each year, with women aged 25-49

invited every three years and women aged 50-64 every five years.

The screening can detect any abnormalities, with women able to receive treatment before cancer develops.

Mr Davies said: "It is of deep concern that one in five eligible women in Wales did not attend a cervical screening in Wales last year – especially since cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women under 35 and is on the rise in women over 50."

"I'd therefore urge all eligible Vale residents to attend their cervical screening, and I am pleased to support the

#SmearForSmear campaign to increase awareness."

Robert Music, of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, said: "We have one of the best cervical cancer screening programmes in the world which saves approximately 5,000 lives a year across the UK."

"However, the number of women attending their screening is falling."

"If we do not increase investment in prevention we will be faced with more women facing the physical and psychological cost of cervical cancer, increasing the burden on the NHS and state, and more lives lost."

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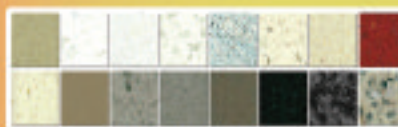
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PORTHCAWL SCHOOL'S LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS IS A TRIUMPH!



ABOVE: Anna Arrieta with the six 'Ronnettes', Elin Morris, Maddie Dawson; Lauren Ellis-Stretch; Blythe Hughes-Davies; Keeley Fry; Megan Morris.



ABOVE: The plant's fame brings a string of business offers for Seymour.

Images by MALCOLM NUGENT

Review by PHILIP IRWIN (See page 28 for more photos).

PORTHCAWL Comprehensive recently finished a four-day run at the Grand Pavilion, offering a sparkling and spectacular version of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Social media has been full of praise for the talented pupils but, with so many of last year's *We Will Rock You* cast available again, that was no surprise really.

However, on top of that talent, there was team work, professionalism and attention to detail as well – and it's probably best to start with the two leads, James Evans-Jones as Seymour, and Molly Brace as Audrey.

Two comedy characters, of course. Seymour is a shy, nervous nerd, and Audrey has a squeaky voice and a similar lack of self esteem. Getting the voices right in the dialogue is tricky, but actually singing in those voices must be a nightmare, and I was so impressed by how they stayed in character.

Anyone who saw James as Tony in last year's *West Side Story* by the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) knows what a terrific 'leading man' voice he has, but for Seymour he has to keep it under wraps.

It was the same for Molly. Ellen Green originated the role on stage and in the 1986 film, and her performance was so definitive that anyone taking the role has no choice but to 'do an Ellen'.

Molly tottered around the stage on her high heels, getting all the laughs that were in the script, and catching the sadness in the character too.

Her singing was great too, staying totally in character. In fact, on the night I saw the show, she beat James in this, as every once in a while, his 'Tony' voice slipped in before Seymour took control again!

Of course, one performer was able to use her own voice – and what a voice it is! In the movie, the voice of Audrey 2, the man-eating plant, was supplied by the great Levi Stubbs, the lead singer of the Four Tops.

It was an inspired choice, then, to cast Anna Arrieta as the voice of Audrey 2. Well, either inspired or a no-brainer.

What was inspired was the decision to bring her on stage as a femme fatale figure – making it clear to poor Seymour that he had no choice but to give in to her.

Anna has by-passed the musical theatre or classical singing route. She loves rhythm and blues, jazz, rock and the like, and she gets better and better. She was great in *We Will Rock You* last year as Scaramouche, and she has moved on since.

The show surprised me because it was so different from the film. I hadn't appreciated how many songs were cut from the movie, and it had a much darker ending.

However, going back to the original show meant that other cast members had a chance to shine. Mitchell Davies played Mr Mushnik, and he and

Seymour made the most of 'Mushnik and Son', a really good comedy number that was cut from the movie. Hard to see why, because there are plenty of laughs in it.

The role of the sadistic dentist (Audrey's boyfriend) was in the film, where Steve Martin played it, so there was no pressure on George Neeson!

However, although he is not in the sixth form yet, George is a seasoned campaigner with lots of BYT experience to draw on, and he hammed it up to great effect. I loved his cackling as he overdosed on laughing gas.

The lead roles need help of course, and the rest of the cast was so slick and professional that everything went very smoothly.

The movie had a three-girl Tamla Motown group acting as the chorus, moving the action along, and commenting on it too. Porthcawl had enough talent to make it a six-girl group, and they all did a great job.

The show's director, Miss Kelly Hardwick, must have been delighted with how the cast responded to her direction. With next year in mind, Molly and Anna are moving on, but there is plenty of talent remaining.

Miss Rhian Thomas doubled up as musical director and choreographer, and she made the most of a fine band, and the aforementioned professionalism of the cast.

Finally – and I was so tempted to lead with this – there is Audrey 2, the puppet. The show's producer, Mr Joe Smith, is credited as the puppeteer, and he made it come to life brilliantly, but I'm assuming that more people were involved in constructing the various incarnations of Audrey 2.

From its start as a pot plant, then as a hand puppet that was dragging Seymour around, and eventually to a scary monster that dominated the stage, it was a triumph.

Apparently, when the show opened on off Broadway, the plant ended the show by moving to the very front of the stage, so its tendrils moved over the audience! That would have been a great finale, but sadly, the pavilion's design means that the band was in the way!

The four performances played to almost full houses – which is great, but with the present crop of talent, it would be great if 'house full' notices were to go up next year.

It makes a big difference to the shows that the school is able to choose, so remember the praise given to this year's show when next January comes around!

GEM NOTE: A charity night in the Hi-Tide Inn on March 9 offers a chance to see Anna Arrieta's new band, 'Sarasota' and it should be a great night. James Evans-Jones will be performing too, and others. (For tickets, which are £7.50 and include a one-course meal, text 07852 793964).



Audrey 2 becomes a scary monster.



Seymour (James Evans-Jones) takes time to think.



Snack time for Audrey 2!



ABOVE: Anna Arrieta played the voice of Audrey 2.



ABOVE: Audrey (Molly Brace) and Seymour fall in love.

Hafod staff help fund two life-saving missions



Hafod staff present 'Biggles' and Catrin from the charity with £3,608.

STAFF from Vale-based housing and 'care support' provider Hafod, have been helping to save lives across Wales by funding emergency helicopter missions.

Some 60 staff in the resources team raised over £3,600 for Wales Air Ambulance, their chosen charity.

Raffles, cake sales, dress-down days, sponsored runs and music nights all helped along with a donation of £500 from the committee of the Glynogwr and District Show.

Jenny Hutchison and

Louise John from Hafod's finance team led the fundraising activities and were overwhelmed by the support.

Jenny said: "We chose the charity as they provide such an important service which is funded solely by donations. We were thrilled to hand over the cheque and know that we are helping to support such a great organisation."

Each of the charity's missions costs around £1,500 and Wales Air Ambulance needs to raise £6.5 million every year to fund its services.

Catrin Hall of Wales Air Ambulance said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to the staff at Hafod Resources, for their outstanding support. As a charity we rely on kind donations to fund our operations, and

their donation will help to fund more than two of our missions. It is support like this that helps to keep us flying."

Hafod has thanked the following for donating raffles prizes: Kingfisher Developments, Willis Construction, Cosgrove Construction, Holbrook Construction, Pentan Architects and Taylormade Building Contractors Ltd.

POLICE JOIN FORCES TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED IN NAZI HOLOCAUST



South Wales Police raised awareness on Holocaust Memorial Day.

SOUTH Wales Police officers have actively supported events around Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27, remembering some of humanity's darkest days during the Second World War.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust established the date in 2001 to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children, and others who were slaughtered in Nazi death camps, and to honour survivors.

South Wales Police has since carried out a series of events to show support and raise awareness within our communities.

South Wales Police Deputy Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important day, as it

allows us to stop, think and remember the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and more recent genocides which have shocked the world.

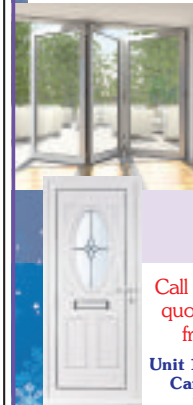
"I have had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz with members of the Jewish community and on days such as this, I remember what I experienced and how I felt.

"My memories act as a reminder that everyone needs to work together to tackle all forms of discrimination and hatred that still affect communities today.

"Throughout our force area, officers and staff are engaging with many local events to show support and raise awareness."

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The Positive Steps project needs volunteers across South Wales to support older people over the age of 50 to regain and maintain their independence.

British Red Cross and Royal Voluntary Service charities are working together to enable individuals to take charge of their situation and, with support, become more independent and live more fulfilled lives.

Whatever your age, you'll find volunteering will change your life too whether you've recently retired, or you're looking to gain new skills for a new job.

For more information on volunteering with Positive Steps please get in touch:

Tel: 07436 799 608 or 029 2002 7855

Email: cardiffvalehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



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Out & About with The GEM

Trainspotting sequel lacks plot but fizzes with verve...

THE British film industry, in something of a moribund state, was given a shot in the arm (ironically) by the release of Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* in 1996.

Surfing on the wave of 'Cool Britannia', this story about heroin addicts in Edinburgh, coupled with a phenomenal soundtrack, secured a mark on culture that has lasted since.

With a sequel mooted for several years, it has taken until now to get the gang back together in *T2: Trainspotting*, which sees us reunite with Renton (Ewan McGregor), Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), Spud (Ewan Bremner) and Begbie (Robert Carlyle).

When Renton returns

home to Edinburgh, 20 years after stealing £16,000 from his former friends, some are pleased to see him, some less so; when he and Sick Boy get involved in a scheme with Sick Boy's girlfriend Veronika (Anjela Nedyalkova), will he become embroiled in his former life yet again – and will Begbie finally catch up to him...

While the pull of nostalgia has never been so strong, several sequels, made many years after the originals, have floundered in recent times, with the emphasis on looking back, rather than looking forward.

Given that *T2* sees the original cast and director Danny Boyle reuniting, you would feel that the project would be strong enough to hold its own against its illustrious forbear, and you'd be partly right.



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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While the film's narrative and central plot is less than convincing, what drags *T2* beyond pale imitation is how it has embraced the passing of time, and given the subject matter of the first film, how lives have been irrevocably affected,

changed and shaped by the characters' surroundings.

This is a film steeped in both nostalgia but also how the world has changed; as we catch up to the characters and see where they are now, there's an intrigue in seeing what each of them has become.

Unsurprisingly, while Renton seems the most well-adjusted of the bunch, the rest are struggling to keep the head above water, heroin addiction, extortion and prison the fates of the other characters.

Yet as the collide with each other again, you can't help but be drawn in by the bittersweet poignancy of this reunion, something the script conveys through small moments that make a real impact, whether it's Spud bemoaning the advent of online banking as it has hampered his cheque fraud skills, or Renton's 21st century 'Choose Life' diatribe that pretty much nails life in the modern era.

The performances are likeable enough, never digging too deep but resonating nonetheless; McGregor slips comfortably back into the character of Renton as does Jonny Lee Miller as Sick Boy, while Robert Carlyle's Begbie is no less a ferocious tangle of anger, violence and short fuse than he was 20 years previous.

It's Ewan Bremner's Spud who arguably goes on the biggest change through the film, and Bremner delivers a strong turn to match the story, his fall and rise heartening amid the decay surrounding him.

Director Danny Boyle and writer John Hodge play all the right notes here, the former delivering his usual blend of visual trickery and editing skill to create something visually superb yet with

no little depth, his camera always lingering on while Hodge's script astutely uses the passing of time from the last film to this one to add weight to the characters and their plights.

The film highlights how much has changed from 1996 to the present day, the gentrification of Edinburgh and surrounding areas, while a central plot strand concerning EU funding is granted an extra poignancy given the events of last June.

What does let the film down a little is the narrative, which feels less central to the film than the reunion with the characters; it's woolly at best, and seems the best way of tying up Renton and Sick Boy. The plot strands concerning Spud and Begbie are far more engaging, and it's a shame that Hodge wasn't able to construct something more engaging for the former pair.

That said though, *T2: Trainspotting* leans less on the crutch of nostalgia, and more on the nature of time and how its passing changes who we are; 21 years later, it's a pleasure to welcome back these rogues and see what they're up to – what you see is both entertaining and sobering.

VERDICT – A strong outing that just about hold water with its forbear, *T2: Trainspotting* has a woolly plot, but revisiting the characters 21 years on has its own pleasures.

Danny Boyle's direction is as visually kinetic as always and the performances are welcome enough in a film that balances nostalgia and present-day concerns well. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Trainspotting* (1996), *Shallow Grave* (1994)

WHAT'S ON / IN BRIEF

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, February 2 Cowbridge Art Society will hold a practical session when members will create a still life work in a medium of their choice.

On Thursday, February 9, local artist and teacher Derek Windsor will give a demonstration of painting a portrait in oils (see coastalgalleries.co.uk/artists/derek-windsor).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and occasional visitors and new members are welcome.

Friends of Penarth Library

A VALENTINE cake sale will be held at Penarth library on Saturday, February 11. It will take place between 11am and 1pm.

Sculpture exhibition at Dyffryn Gardens

AN outdoor trail designed by members of Sculpture Cymru was launched on January 29 as a part of a temporary exhibition to 'reflect on the history and botanical collections of the award-winning Dyffryn Gardens'.

The 'Place' exhibition, which has been installed at the National Trust attraction in the Vale, explores the history, design and rich plantings of the Edwardian gardens.

Sculptors who have taken part in the exhibition include artist Lee Odishow, who was chosen to design a new First World War memorial for Belgium's war zone, and John Howes, formerly Director of the BA Fine Art programme at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Swansea.

"We are thrilled that the varied works of the artists of Sculpture Cymru are adding an intriguing aspect to the rich experience of all our thousands of visitors who come to see our wonderful plants and trees, wide vistas and intimate garden rooms," said Geraldine Donovan, general manager at Dyffryn Gardens.

"It has been great to see so many talented sculptors embrace the history and environment of Dyffryn and reflect this within their emotive pieces of art around our gardens."

One of the 12 pieces installed at Dyffryn Gardens is the impressive marble and stone sculpture 'Lost Comrades' designed by Glenn Morris.

During the First World War, the soldiers in the trenches saw butterflies, which they believed were the souls of their lost comrades.

Drawing on this, Glenn's art comprises a large carving in marble of a butterfly's egg mounted on to a stone base.

Glenn Morris commented: "Since the First World War, 187 million people have been killed in conflicts around the world. The butterflies on the stone work of 'Lost Comrades' are made from lead bullets collected from the Somme and each butterfly represents 1 million people killed since the end of the 'war to end all wars'."

From the beginning of the gardens, through

its near demise due to war, and now to its return to former splendour, the trail will coincide with Dyffryn's plantsman's response to the First World War.

Reginald Cory, son of John Cory who bought the Dyffryn estate in 1891, was a passionate

horticulturist. During the First World War, Reginald grew 100,000 fruit and vegetable plants, including six acres of potatoes, in Dyffryn in order to help with the war effort.

The 'Place' exhibition runs until September 2017.

Win tickets to see Mike Doyle

POPULAR Welsh entertainer Mike Doyle is bringing his 'In Concert' show to Maesteg Town Hall on February 10.

The singer and comedian first came to prominence in 1988, when he appeared on BBC's *Bob Says Opportunity Knocks*, winning his heat and then appearing in the final.

His long career includes three of his own series for The BBC and West End appearances as the Big Bopper in *Buddy and Teen Angel in Grease*.

He has been a headliner on cruise lines for over 30 years and has appeared in 24 pantomimes to date,

most recently at the New Theatre Cardiff alongside David Hasselhoff.

Mike is delighted to be bringing his show with his live band to Maesteg. To be in with a chance to win a pair of tickets for the show, answer the following question...

• Mike appeared in a theatre tour in 2007, playing an iconic Welsh boxer in a musical. What was the name of the boxer?

Send your answer on an email to ianparsonsproducer@gmail.com – the deadline for this is Wednesday, February 8 at 5pm.

All the correct answers will be put into a hat and a winner will be drawn and notified on February 9.

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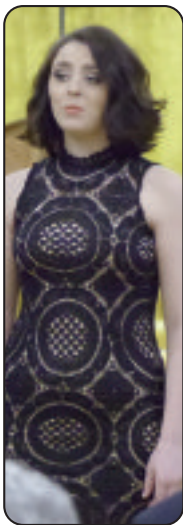
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MUSIC IN THE VALE

Manon Ogwen Parry, aged 17, from Penarth

THE finalists in the Music in the Vale competition, held last November, performed in All Saints Church, Penarth on January 22, at a concert to raise money for this year's competition.

Other performers were members of the WNO Orchestra and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The concert was well supported by a large audience was treated to a musical afternoon of singers and musicians illustrating how much young talent there is in Wales.



Efa Peak, aged 10, from Penarth.

Aston Martin a 'Welsh success'

ATTRACTING Aston Martin to St Athan was a "fantastic success for Wales", said Alun Cairns.

The Vale MP and Welsh Secretary was facing questions from Welsh MPs in the Commons recently when Plaid Cymru's Arfon MP Hywel Williams said a special deal had been cut for the car industry in the north east, and he wanted to know if Mr Cairns had sought a similar deal in Wales.

Mr Cairns told Mr Williams: "The automotive sector is exceptionally strong in Wales, partly as a result of the Nissan contract in Sunderland, for which many of the supplier companies are based in Wales."

"I also draw attention to the great success of the Secretary of State for Defence in bringing Aston Martin to Wales."

"We should recognise and celebrate the fantastic success on that MoD base."

Vale Ramblers embrace the winter weather

THE Vale Ramblers' Sunday walk certainly reinforced the aspiration of donning waterproofs and embracing the weather – whatever the conditions!

Eighteen ramblers walked in the Wentwood forest, on pathways under mist shrouded trees with rain drops trickling from the overhanging branches.

As so often on winter walks, there was mud aplenty, oozing but not quite engulfing – just enough to

ensure that we kept our wits about us and didn't end up with enormous amounts of post-walk washing. An energising walk, I think all would agree!

Do come and join us, we always welcome anyone who just wants to see what it's all about. Our next walk this Sunday, February 5, will involve a train ride. Meet at Cowbridge Town Hall car park at 9am to car share. Find more details on www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

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Huw Boucher, aged 14, from Penarth.



Macie Wallis, aged 14, from Bridgend.

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MOON**
reports on a
momentous
event in
Washington



Tory leader signs Holocaust Book of Commitment

**LEADER of the
Welsh
Conservatives,
Andrew RT Davies,
has signed the
Holocaust
Educational Trust
Book of
Commitment, as
people across the
world marked
Holocaust
Memorial Day on
January 27.**

The book was placed outside the Senedd chamber, and Mr Davies focused his contribution on the importance of learning the lessons of history to make sure such atrocities never happen again.

He wrote: "History teaches us we should never forget and we should always protect against evil. Standing up for what we believe in is something we should all do to make sure evil never succeeds."

January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, and is commemorated each year as Holocaust Memorial Day.

The millions of people murdered or persecuted during the Holocaust, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur are also remembered.

THE goal was accessing the Canadian Embassy... The police would not let us cross the road, so there we were, representatives of 11 Nato countries stuck, with anti-Trump supporters in front and pro-Trump supporters to our rear.

It was an apt, if very uncomfortable position to be in, especially when those to our rear became agitated and began shouting "God bless Trump!" and let us cross while pushing forward.

So what was I doing, stuck there in this crowd on the US President's Inauguration Day?

The Defence and Security Committee of the NATO PA visits Washington each January for a meeting with the defence community. This includes the military, think tanks, senators and congressional leaders.

This year, we were also invited to watch the inauguration of the new President from the Canadian embassy, which overlooks Capitol Hill. I want to use this article to give you an insight into what we saw and how it felt to be in Washington for those few days...

The military and police had closed off streets, blocking them with large vehicles and armed personnel along the route to the embassy. The fear was of a Nice-like terrorist attack. The streets were strangely deserted outside of the city centre, which Americans with the delegation told us was very unusual on an inauguration day.

Near the Washington Monument, we talked with demonstrators opposed to the incoming President's stance on climate change, Obama care, Muslims, and immigration.

Those who voted for Mr Trump wore red 'Make America Great Again' baseball hats, many saying this was their first-ever visit to Washington. There was no feeling of tension, no animosity between the opposing groups and everyone we met was polite and wanted to know about our visit to the US.

All went well until the inauguration speech. The Canadian Embassy was full of visitors, the atmosphere positive, even festive. This changed as everyone was struck dumb as they listened to

the inauguration address. People talked in small groups about the tone and language, which was unlike anything anyone had heard before from an incoming major political leader. There was deep concern as to what this meant for the future. The event fell flat and people began to leave.

In the evening, walking across the city, we passed armed riot police, people with faces hidden behind masks and scarves alongside men in tuxedos and women in ball gowns and high heels. It was tense, there were clear divisions, but I saw no violence.

We left Washington the next day to visit the Navy at Annapolis so did not see the women's march. We did, however, meet many of those who went on the march when we returned, including some who had flown in from Alaska and a group from California who had driven for 29 hours to attend.

Many spoke of the need to be politically active and to push back against values they felt were threatening America's outward-looking, tolerant world view.

The President and his press secretaries' claims the next day about the numbers attending the two events were, again, shocking. We had seen the small numbers attending the inauguration and the empty seats for the parade. To hear the attacks on the media and the claim that there were no lies – just different interpretations of facts – was chilling.

The news that the White House website had removed information about Obama care, domestic violence support and climate change was made more worrying by news reports of freak weather across America. High winds, hurricanes, snow storms, flooding and unseasonal high temperatures were hitting many states.

Our visits on the Hill were a mixed bag. We stood on the inauguration balcony, on the floors of the Senate and Congress in between meetings with political figures, academics, officials and think tanks.

The general tone of meetings was of insecurity, nervousness, and the repeated mantra of "it's early days".

I was shown pieces of the Berlin Wall, kept as a

reminder of Ronald Reagan's speech when he said: "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

I commented that it was a little ironic that America now had a President who wanted to build walls. No, I was told – the scenarios were different, this was about protecting the US border. Keeping people out, not keeping people in.

In side meetings, I was urged not to give up on America and told we will need your help, don't be afraid to speak out and condemn the administration when they do the wrong things.

There were high hopes of Theresa May's visit and hopes that she would set the tone for serious political debate and decision making. In one meeting, we explored the scenario of a Russian invasion of the Balkans, and one of the delegates saw his town destroyed in the first hour, others saw their country lost within days.

This was the most depressing overseas visit I have made. I have been in war zones, dictatorships and countries whose views on women and family values were anathema to me and left with hope that change was possible.

To hear the lies and threats and see the political anxiety in America was not good. So many people told me that the next few years would see a testing of the strength of the American constitution, and not to forget not everyone supported the direction the country was taking. Since then, we have had comments endorsing torture, and blocking immigration by Muslims, contrasted with a mainly respectful visit by our Prime Minister.

I fear America will face many challenges over the coming years as the new President makes his changes. None of us will be unaffected by the decisions made here. We will all be challenged.

I want to end as always on a positive note.

Another great change is happening, one I have felt coming for a while, the coming together, the closer unity, the closer bonds and sense of common destiny of NATO PA members facing the uncertainty of the new America.

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Thirteen lucky for some on a ramble to Brecon!

BARRIE from Penarth and District Ramblers took his group of 13 walkers from the pretty and bustling town of Brecon on a journey across rivers and frozen white covered fields and through pretty byways to visit a Roman fort, spying a total of four red kites on the journey.

But first of all a visit to the stunning Brecon Cathedral, which dates back to 1093, when it was built by the Normans as the Benedictine Priory of St John the Evangelist, only receiving its cathedral status in 1923.

Arriving at a domed stone-built building (which everyone thought was a pig-pen until it became clear it was a covered well) and under blue skies and in bright sunshine, a climb to the trig point on Pen-y-crug for morning break afforded very misty views of the central Beacons and surrounding countryside.

Following roads and rough tracks to the Roman fort of Y Gaer, where the outline of the fort walls, entrances and turrets are still visible, it is hard to believe that this peaceful place once controlled five major Roman roads and held a garrison of over 500 cavalry and horses, with military training areas in the first century.

After lunch, and trekking through woodland before spying the large private fishing lake at Goudy through the bare trees, sunken lanes brought them back into fields leading to the River Usk and the Promenade at Brecon, above which on a hill stands the Castle Hotel, formerly an 11th century Norman stronghold.

After becoming a coaching inn, then the residence of the Morgan family of Tredegar Park, in 1809 Sir Charles Morgan converted it into the first modern hotel in Wales.

The next day, Robin and Pepper

were joined by 10 walkers for the journey up to Llangorse Lake and setting out through the mist, fields brought them into Llangorse village then on by road and track to reach Llangorse Multi-Activity Centre, which boasts a zip wire with marvellous views.

Tramping through fields and a boggy sunken lane to pause for morning break beside a refurbished shepherd's hut, a good path led them uphill onto Mynydd Llangorse where there was a slight breeze.

They went on to the pretty little church dedicated to St Gastyn built on the southern shores of the lake at Llangasty-Talyllyn, as the church was open there was a chance to view the inside of this rebuilt Victorian church, which was originally founded by St Gastyn in the fifth century.

The area around the southern side of the delightful Llangorse Lake, which is fringed by reed beds, does flood and crossing a series of footbridges and boardwalks, built to help with this problem and passing a bird hide, boggy fields led them back to the northern side of the lake with its historic rebuilt 'crannog', or small man-made island to the car park for the journey home.

On February 4, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk at Goodrich in the Wye Valley; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On February 5, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 10-mile moderate walk at Ystradfellie taking in the Mellie and Nedd valleys; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

To follow the group log on to www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Plan to force councils to merge is no more – but could PR be on the cards?

A NEW White Paper put forward by Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford contains a number of possible changes to the way councillors could be elected in the future

It also appears to dispense with the idea of forcing councils to merge to make savings – although it entertains the possibility of councils 'choosing to merge' if they see that as a way of cutting costs.

When the idea of cutting the number of local authorities from 22 to 10 or fewer was put forward by the Williams Commission, the Vale Council was lined up to be swallowed by the much larger Cardiff City Council.

In response, a voluntary merger between the Vale and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) was proposed by the two councils, but it remains to be seen if that plan could resurface.

Even if they opt to stay as they are, councils will be expected to increase the areas where they work

jointly, as a way of saving money.

In the white paper, Mr Drakeford has also proposed lowering the voting age to 16, but it is the possibility of Proportional Representation (PR) that has attracted the most attention.

First past the post system is the present system, but Mr Drakeford wants to hear what people think about offering a form of proportional representation.

However, it appears that a PR system will not be imposed on a council – that council will have the choice.

Mr Drakeford said: "They will be able to decide between FPTP (first past the post) and STV (single transferable vote) as a way of conducting elections."

With FPTP, voters cast one vote and the candidate with the most votes wins. If a ward has more than one seat up for election, then the candidates with the most votes take the seats.

STV allows voters to put numbers next to candidates in order of preference. Candidates then need to reach a percentage of the votes, determined by the number of seats available.

by PHILIP IRWIN

The Electoral Reform Society (ERS) Cymru is very enthusiastic about STV.

Darren Hughes, the acting director of ERS Cymru, said: "This White Paper is a hugely encouraging sign, and shows that the Welsh government is serious about empowering voters and revitalising democracy in Wales."

"A fairer voting system for local government – which would allow voters to rank their candidates by preference – would be a big step forward. Moving away from the Westminster winner-takes-all system across the board would mean everyone's vote counted in local elections."

"PR is a normal part of life for voters in Scotland and Northern Ireland, ensuring that all council seats are contested and that all votes count."

"The Single Transferable Vote has been used in Scotland for 10 years now, and in Northern Ireland since the 1970s, and gives fair results that represent the diverse swathe of opinion that exists."

"Systems that are more responsive to

voters' views will also be more responsive to their needs."

"In the 2012 election, Wales had 99 uncontested council seats – with over 140,000 voters denied a say. Part of this is down to a voting system that gives huge majorities on small chunks of the vote, and is a disincentive for choice."

"By contrast, in the final set of Scottish local elections run under First Past the Post in 2003 Scotland had 61 uncontested seats – yet following the shift to the Single Transferable

Vote in 2007 that figure hit zero.

"At the same time, the average number of candidates standing per ward went from 3.4 in 2003 under FPTP to 7.1 in 2012 under STV, and the proportion of people seeing their first choice candidate elected soared from 52 per cent in 2003 to 77 per cent in 2012."

GEM NOTE: It should be made clear that this White Paper is a consultation document, and no changes are envisaged for the local government elections in May of this year.

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CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE STUDENTS 'DO IT FOR REAL'

A MOBILE hair-dressing service for people with additional support needs, and a project to create bespoke hairpieces for those with hair loss, proposed by students from Cardiff and Vale College, has been given start-up funding.

The enterprises are the latest to be supported by UnLtd, a foundation programme aimed to help young people start, grow and build social action projects.

The hair and beauty students went through a rigorous process of pitching their ideas to a panel of social entrepreneurs. Their project will create wigs at a reduced cost for people suffering with hair loss due to health reasons.

Wayne Carter, CAVC's widening participation manager, said: "The applications for the awards programme were of a very high standard."

"Always Unique was set up by Elizabeth Connor, who is on a Level 3 hairdressing programme at the college, and will offer mobile hair and beauty treatments to people with additional support needs, while three students



The college students whose projects have been given start-up funding.

known as Imagine will develop a service for people who have suffered hair loss by creating of bespoke wigs and styling them with patients."

CAVC enterprise and enrichment team leader Claire Oatridge said: "The programme encourages young people to be more entrepreneurial and help those interested in starting a business take their ideas forward."

Do It For Real is the new youth programme by Spirit of 2012, Comic Relief and UnLtd.

The organisations have come together to

help young people aged 11-30, discover their full potential and contribute to their communities, their futures and their livelihoods through social entrepreneurship. The programme will enable partners to contribute to transforming the lives of thousands of young people ready to make a positive difference in their communities.

There is still an opportunity to apply for an award of cash and support of between £500 and £5,000. More information available at www.cavc.ac.uk.

'Wasteful T9 bus should be scrapped' – says a ward candidate

THE Welsh Labour Government wasted almost half a million pounds last year on the T9 Airport Express Bus, according to new figures obtained by the Conservatives.

Labour's Transport Minister – Ken Skates – confirmed the figures recently in answering a written question.

Around £1.3m has been given in grants and subsidies to the Vale Council for the T9 over three years – despite cuts to local Vale bus services, including the 98 to Highlight Park, Barry.

The Conservative candidate for the Dyfan Ward in Barry – Vincent Bailey – has called for the T9 to be scrapped, with money saved being spent on restoring local services.

Mr Bailey, said: "The amount of taxpayers' money being thrown at the Empty 9 is an absolute scandal."

"Almost half a million pounds was wasted last year by the Welsh Labour Government on a service that locals still can't use, and a bus which still regularly runs empty."

"It's time for the T9 to be scrapped, with the savings spent on improvements to local services in the Vale."

"Barry residents deserve a better transport service and having fought to stop cuts to local routes such as the 98 to Highlight, I can understand their anger and frustration at seeing this empty bus rolling along Port Road every 20 minutes or so."

GROWING AIRPORT

A Welsh Government spokesman pointed out that since it took ownership of Cardiff Airport in 2013, it had become one of the UK's fastest growing airports.

"Passenger numbers have increased month on month for 20 straight months, and grew by approximately 15 per cent between 2015 and 2016."

"It's imperative that our national airport has regular public transport to and from it and we'd expect these numbers to continue to grow as the airport continues to expand and increase in popularity."

"We have protected our 'Bus Services Support Grant' to all councils in Wales in recent budgets, which enables them to subsidise bus and community transport services they deem necessary in their areas."

"The Vale Council is separately and additionally reimbursed for the operation of the T9 service. It has never been a case of choosing local services over the airport shuttle, Vale communities should expect both."

Coun Peter King, cabinet member for transportation, explained that the Vale Council tendered the contract for the Cardiff Airport Express Service T9 on behalf of the Welsh Government, which wholly subsidises the service through a specific grant.

He said: "The current projected cost for 2016/17 is £450,334 and the latest data indicates 7,126 people used the service in December."

"The withdrawal of this service would not necessarily mean that its funding would be directed to support other local buses in this or other areas of Wales. This would be a matter for Welsh Government to decide, not the council."

"The service helps make Cardiff Airport and Wales more accessible, especially the capital Cardiff, which has knock-on benefits for surrounding areas like the Vale."

"In an effort to ensure the T9 causes minimum disruption to local services throughout the Vale, passenger journeys have to either start or end at the airport terminal. That means they don't have a negative impact on other bus services operating on a commercial basis along parts of the route."

He added: "Service 98 is a commercial service provided by Cardiff Bus. However, a small amount of financial support is agreed annually in order to provide continued service provision between Christmas and New Year. Without this, the service would not otherwise run due to Cardiff Bus's application of Saturday timetables over this period."

Trading standards advice

DO you have an issue related to trading standards or would like to chat to an adviser from Trading Standards Cardiff and Vale?

Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale are holding a advice session on Tuesday, February 7 at 10am to 12 noon at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.



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MV Balmoral makes plea for more cash

The MV Balmoral takes on passengers in Porthcawl.



THE Balmoral steamship is continuing its appeal for funds that will enable it to continue sailing this summer.

The steamship runs a series of trips along the Bristol Channel coastline, calling at resorts on both sides of the channel.

However, poor weather last year forced a number of trips to be cancelled, and now the charitable trust that maintains the steamship is in desperate need of funds.

Paul Doubler, a trustee of the MV

Balmoral Fund Ltd, told The GEM: "We desperately need £140,000 with only a few weeks left before we must decide we are sailing, or sadly we don't have enough to cover dry docking costs so must call things off."

"This would be a very sad loss to Penarth where we call more at the splendid Victorian Pier than anywhere else in the UK, and are also very well supported at Porthcawl and Swansea."

For more information, go to www.mvbalmoral.org.uk, www.whitefunnel.co.uk or contact Paul.doubler@btinternet.com

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Tinnitus Awareness Week 6th - 12th February 2017

30% of people will experience Tinnitus at some point in their lives. Tinnitus is more common in people who have a hearing loss or other ear problem, it can also be found in people with normal hearing.

Are you suffering from tinnitus?

Tinnitus is the name of the noise that is heard in 1 or both ears or in the head. It may be low, medium or high pitched and may be a single noise or a mixture of noise. Ear wax is known to cause or worsen Tinnitus so your problem may simply be down to wax. At Malmo Hearing, we offer microsuction wax removal.

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Hearing loss – The loss of hearing is often an unnoticeable and gradual process and many people are surprised when they are told that they have a hearing loss.

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During Tinnitus Awareness Week we will be offering:

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Celtic festival stages its first children's choral competition

Aneirin Jones (centre) the winner of last year's 'Young Musician of the Festival' competition, with the judges.

THIS year's inter-Celtic festival will host a choir competition for the first time when it comes to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl (March 10-12).

On Sunday, March 12, primary school children from south Wales will have the opportunity to perform and compete in Cwlm Celtaidd's first choir competition.

Young competitors under the age of 11 will perform songs from the folk traditions of Wales and beyond.

The choral competition adds to Cwlm Celtaidd's established 'Young Musician of the Festival' competition that has been welcoming young performers aged 10 to 18 from the Celtic countries to compete and perform.

The winner of the 2016 Young Musician of the Festival prize was Aneirin Jones, an 18-year-old violinist from Pontardawe.

Aneirin will perform with the 2015 winner, Dylan Cairns-Howarth at the Festival this year.

He said: "The competition was a great experience in every respect, with the judges giving useful advice on my performance, whether technical or commenting on how to further improve my performance skills."

"It has contributed hugely to the way I prepare, perform and practice my repertoire."

Tickets for the competitions and concert on Sunday, March 12 are £5 - available from the Grand Pavilion box office on 01656 815995.



Barry schoolboy (9) meets his heroes

...and sets his sights on a police career!

A **BARRY** schoolboy who penned a letter to his local police station has this week met the "heroes" he aspires to become.

In a letter to 'the chief of the Barry police department', nine-year-old Ellis Nash wrote of his dream to join the police force and urged officers to "keep up the good work."

He wrote: "I've loved policemen since I was young. I love your work, you save the country."

"Also you are my hero! When I grow up I want to be in the SWAT team. When I grow up I will fight crime."

Impressed by the High Street Primary pupil's enthusiasm - which also included a request to "see jail so I know what I'm in for in future" - new Chief Inspector for the Vale of Glamorgan, Lisa Gore, responded with a letter of her own, along with an invitation for the youngster to visit Barry Police Station with his family.

CI Gore wrote: "It's very kind of you to thank us for our good work and I'll make sure that the officers in Barry are aware of your kind words."

"I can see that you would like to be in the



Ellis with Emily and Lisa Gore.

SWAT team. We don't have SWAT teams in the UK, they are in the USA, but we do have a firearms unit that maybe you could think about."

She added: "Make sure that you keep fit and eat healthily though, as you will have your fitness tested to be a police officer and to be a firearms officer you need to be really fit, so it would be good to have good exercise and eating habits now."

"Also you need to work hard in school and concentrate in class. I know it's not always easy but it's important to get a good education so that you can pass the entrance exams to be a police officer."

As well as meeting the Chief Inspector and Sergeant Julie Odgers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team earlier this week, the Nash

family were also surprised with a visit from two firearms officers.

PCs Martyn Davies and Tony O'Hanlon explained their roles to Ellis and his sister Emily, seven, before showing them the wide range of equipment contained in their armed response vehicles.

The family were also given a tour of the station, including the former custody cells, before the children made fingerprint keyrings with Sgt Odgers as a keepsake of their special visit.

Inquisitive Ellis, who impressed the team with his knowledge and

interest, said: "I wrote the letter because I really want to be a policeman when I'm older and I want to know as much about the job as I can."

"The visit has been so much fun - my favourite parts were seeing the guns and putting the sirens on in the police car."

Chief Inspector Gore said: "It was a pleasure to have Ellis and his family in to see us at the station. Our officers work tirelessly to keep south Wales safe, and it's always really heartening to receive positive feedback from the public, especially someone as young as Ellis."

"He has a genuine interest in the work we do and I hope the visit has further inspired him to follow his ambition."

"He's learned all about our Police Youth Volunteer scheme which he sounded keen to take part in when he's a little bit older, and I hope we'll be welcoming him to the force in 10 years' time."

Highways respond to concern over Dinas 'build-out'

A motorist struck the new 'build-out' on Cross Common Road in Dinas Powys.

The 'build-out' is on the stretch of road leading from the entrance to Hebron Hall up to the newly built junction. It slows traffic.

Plaid councillor Chris Franks said, "I do hope no-one was hurt. The Vale Highways staff have been alerted to the incident. I suppose that people are not expecting a change in the road layout."

"It appears that there was a lack of cones indicating the build-out. There is a slight rise in the road and the build out is in a dip so visibility might not be perfect."

"Probably once the work is completed and

people become used to the layout, everything will be fine. In the meantime, we all have to take care."

"The Highways staff have assured me that they are investigating the situation and will make any necessary improvements to the warning signs and place additional bollards, if appropriate."

PACT meetings

GIBBOWSDOWN - meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

COURT PACT at the Witchell Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, February 16 at 6.30pm.

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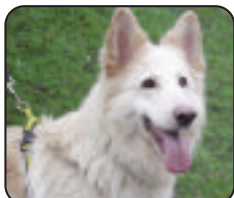
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Dog of the Week

Dog of the Week at Dogs Trust, Bridgend is a beautiful German Shepherd called Ice, who is six years old, loves to play with other dogs and enjoys a good game of chase.

Ice loves her treats and toys. She does rely on the confidence of other dogs, so she has to live with another dog already in the home and she can also live with children over 11 years old.

If you are interested in Ice, call the Dogs Trust rehoming centre on 01656 725219!



Barry RTC

POLICE attended a road traffic collision involving a vehicle and a child on Gladstone Road, Barry, on Friday, January 27

Officers were called to the collision, which occurred near Gladstone Primary School, at approximately 3.35pm.

The boy was taken to the University Hospital of Wales. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

The road was closed to the junction with Buttrills Road while officers investigated the incident.

WELSH CHAT

MENTER bro Morgannwg will be holding a 'Dysgu a Diod' - 'A drink and learn' evening on the first Monday of the month, 7pm-8pm, at The Old White Hart in Llantwit Major - an informal get together to chat comfortably in Welsh.

Your Sunday Lunch Guide & Valentine's Experience



Enjoy your time with family & friends



February needn't be grey – there's an extra reason to relish a gourmet meal!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

It might be Mediterranean dishes for six days, but they know which side their bread is buttered when Sunday comes around!

What is more, the law of competition and survival of the fittest ensures that standards stay high.

Restaurateurs will pitch menus at different niches in the market, from *cordon bleu* to wholesome, but at a time of austerity, each knows they must deliver the goods, or diners will just go elsewhere.

Of course, adding Valentine's Day to the mix gives an extra reason to eat out, but it can be a nervous time for both men and women – because an all-important choice has to be made – how to celebrate in style?

It is a relatively easy decision for some – in particular, a couple who have an established relationship, with several years under their belts.

By now (*touch wood!*) they should know what works for them. They will have made a few mistakes and can, all being well, look back and smile...

For the newer relationship, however, it is a little like putting on a blindfold and setting off into a minefield!

In theory, in these modern times of gender equality, a couple should be able to arrive at a joint decision, but life is rarely that simple!

By a process that is hard to quantify, one half of the duo will generally end up making the choice.

It will be 'his

choice' – or 'her choice' – and he or she will have to face the music afterwards!

After all, that perfect Valentine's experience need not be an intimate setting in the country.

In towns such as Barry, Cowbridge, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Bridgend or Porthcawl, there are a wealth of venues.

You can choose a smart brasserie, or tapas, or take your choice from a huge range of national cuisines.

The days when the 'exotic' choice was Italian, Indian or Chinese are long gone!

Town-based restaurants, of course, offer the added attraction of extending the evening by heading for a popular nightspot.

Some couples may push the boat out and dine in a smart restaurant, where they

can enjoy a leisurely meal before retiring to a pre-booked hotel.

People may go on (and on) about the good old days, but when it comes to eating out, surely we are in the good old days now.

Chefs are more ambitious, diners are more discerning, standards are higher, variety has never been so great.

February may be a grey month, but a great dining experience can bring a splash of vivid colour to those 28 days!

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★★★ **DESSERTS** ★★★
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Add a dessert for £2.50

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Wednesday - STEAK NIGHT

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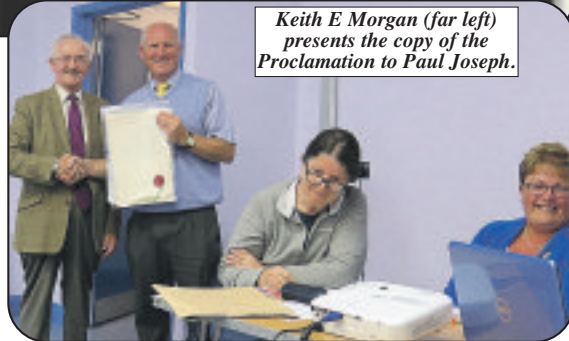
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Donation to museum shows Porthcawl's reaction to the death of King George VI



The reading of the Proclamation by Coun E. Stanley Thomas in 1952.

Report by Keith E Morgan



Keith E Morgan (far left) presents the copy of the Proclamation to Paul Joseph.

LAST year, Porthcawl Museum took delivery of a new exhibit recalling the time almost 65 years ago when Britain found itself with a new Monarch.

On February 6, 1952, King George VI passed away in his sleep at the age of 56, and his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, who was in Kenya, became Queen Elizabeth II.

She returned home and was proclaimed Monarch of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon the following day.

The news of the King's death was reported in the

'Porthcawl Guardian' and cinemas and theatres were closed as the Nation went into mourning.

Proclamations of the Queen's Accession took place in many parts of the United Kingdom, including Porthcawl, where the proclamation was read out on the steps of the Grand Pavilion by Coun E. Stanley Thomas, chairman of Porthcawl Town Council, who was also a well respected plumber in Porthcawl.

For many years, his plumber's two-wheeled push cart was on display in the foyer of the Grand Pavilion and was often used as a stage prop.

The original copy of the proclamation that was read out by Coun Thomas, together with the photograph of the occasion, were presented to the Porthcawl

Museum at the Museum's Annual General Meeting last year by Nifa Saunders (née Bubb) and her brother David Bubb.

Neither Nifa or David, who are grandchildren of the late Coun Thomas, could be present at the AGM, so the presentation was made by Keith E. Morgan to Paul Joseph, the chairman of Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society.

Nifa was christened Mary Nifa Bubb and eventually qualified as a nurse. As there were so many nurses named Mary in the hospital, her second name was used to make identification easier.

At the time of the King's death, Nifa was attending the New Road School as a 10/11-year-old and can remember the headmaster, Mr James, telling the school assembly of the King's death.

She also has vivid recollections of the Queen's Coronation the following year on June 2, 1953. Because it was inappropriate to hold such a festival during the period of mourning following the death of a monarch, the Coronation take place more than a year later.

Nifa attended a street party with the church in Park Street and was one of the lucky ones with a television set to see the Coronation. Her grandfather, Coun E. Stanley Thomas, had bought one and Nifa recalls sitting on the floor, eyes glued to the TV, with all the neighbours crowding in around her. What wonderful memories of a wonderful Royal occasion!

Pencoe girl puts on a 'Miss Wales' fundraising event

THE Miss Wales 2017 finalists are planning a month-long charity initiative called the 'Fab Feb Fundraiser' - and local girl, 23-year-old Hannah Williams, from Pencoe, is doing her bit.

She has organised a night of entertainment on February 23 at Pen y Bont Football Club (7pm until late).

Performing will be Natasha John, who last year starred as the unexpected star of Michael McIntyre's Show and sang with Michael Ball.

A local band The Broadcasts, and Sam Taylor will also perform and there will be many exciting prizes included in a raffle and auction. A hot buffet is included and tickets are £15.

Hannah said: "It will be a fantastic evening showcasing some



Hannah Williams.

wonderful talent from our region and I hope to raise as much money as possible for the charity 'Beauty With A Purpose'.

The Fab Feb Fundraiser programme will see more than 40 finalists from across the country doing a series of special events and activities, on what is hoped will be every day of the month - to raise money for the Miss World charity 'Beauty With A Purpose', which helps disadvantaged children worldwide.

Last year, £22,500 was raised by the finalists and donated to Ty Hafan, LATCH and BulliesOut through Beauty With A Purpose.

This year's fundraising events include everything from sponsored fun runs and zumbathons to fashion shows and charity dinners.

Hannah said: "It's great to be able to use my Miss Wales experience to help others. I'm having a lot of fun planning my event and over joyed with all the support I'm getting from friends and family".

Miss Wales is the official qualifier to Miss World. This year's final will take place from April 6-8.

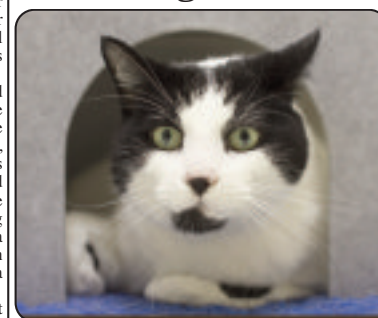
For further information from Hannah Williams and to purchase tickets, contact - Facebook @hannahwilliams or on email - han132@hotmail.co.uk

Wales football boss is there for Bobath

WALES football manager, Chris Coleman, is celebrating St David's Day by taking part in a special fundraising event for Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

An Evening with Chris Coleman will be a sporting occasion full of chat, gossip and all things football, hosted by TV and radio presenter Frances Donovan at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, at 7pm.

'Hi, I'm Charlie and I need a good home'



THE Cats Adoption Centre in Brynecethin is looking for loving homes for its feline guests. Today, they would like to introduce Charlie to GEM readers...

"Hello, I'm Charlie! I came into the centre when my owner became too unwell to look after me. "I am a sweet, cuddly boy who loves to cwtch! I would love a nice quiet home, where I can be spoilt rotten. Can you give me the home I'm looking for, please?" You can contact the centre on email: bridgend@cats.org.uk or by telephone: on 01656 724396.

Guests will be welcomed by a male voice choir while enjoying a glass of champagne, followed at half time by a three-course meal, raffle and auction.

To purchase tickets (£50 per person), telephone the Bobath fundraising team on 02920 522600, or by going to www.bobathwales.org/evnts/2017/03/01/an-evening-with-chris-coleman/

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales specialist

provides

therapy to children in Wales who have cerebral palsy, and this year the charity is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Gail Griffiths, head of fundraising at the charity said: "We are thrilled that Chris and Frances are supporting us at this special St David's Day fundraising event. "We've already had lots of interest and I know it's going to be an amazing night."

Bridgend PACT

OLD CASTLE PACT at the library, Bryn Teg Comprehensive School on Thursday, February 2 at 6pm.

BYNTRITION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, February 9 at 7pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, February 13 at 7.15pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, February 16 at 6pm.

PORTHCAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on Tuesday, February 28 at 6.30pm.

Residents' waste complaints

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kier Group provides environmental and recycling services for 22 local authorities, covering more than 2.2 million households across the UK, including 63,000 in Bridgend County Borough.

The complaint follows reports on other news sites, again with video footage, of similar incidents carried out by Kier Group staff in Bridgend.

Mrs Mainwaring said: "This has been going on since March last year, and always with the same crew. Although I have spoken to BCBC on a number of occasions, I have been told that the council will only pass any complaints to Kier Group."

"But no-one has ever got back to me," said Mrs Mainwaring.

However, BCBC, when asked by THE GEM for comment, refused that statement.

Its spokesperson said: "Kier and BCBC are always happy to discuss problems or clarify any issues that a householder may have about recycling.

"As regards this particular case, senior managers at Kier Group were able to speak to two residents at the address. They have taken note of their concerns and are currently looking into them."

Mrs Mainwaring said that, when she has remonstrated with the crew, some members have been rude to her. They have been abusive to me, and told me they will not take any of my recycling.

"When I put the cardboard in the lorry myself, the shorter of the two climbed into three different compactors, removed it and threw the recycling over the road.

"I then picked it all up and went down to the lorry. The taller chap told me which one to put it in, but the shorter one then climbed in the compactor and again threw it over the road."

She said that the shorter employee then followed her back to her home, filming her as he went, shouting to the other refuse collector.

The BCBC spokesperson added: "To support recycling

collections and help avoid problems, residents should only use official recycling equipment that has been provided free to all households, make sure that they only contain items that can be accepted for recycling, and check that they can be easily accessed at the kerbside.

"Large pieces of cardboard will be left behind to avoid causing blockages inside the collection vehicle, so residents should break it into smaller pieces and place it in their black box.

The spokesperson concluded by saying: "On no account should residents attempt to place materials inside the collection vehicle themselves. In addition to health and safety issues, this results in mixed waste that has to be cleared before collections can continue, and creates a delay in the rest of the round."

The GEM approached Kier Group for comment, but its spokesperson declined, saying that the company was happy with the response issued by BCBC.

Foster a four-legged friend



Mary Gunn with one of her previous foster dogs, Boo.

A NEW survey reveals that nearly 56 per cent of people in Wales admitted to feeling lonely at some point during the course of 2016; but the good news for dog owners is that their four-legged friends can help – with 91 per cent asked saying it made them happier, and 89 per cent said their dog made them less lonely.

With the depressing winter months still in full swing, a Dogs Trust spokesperson says it is encouraging the public to consider fostering a dog on a temporary basis with a 'Home From Home' scheme, launched this week.

The mutually beneficial nationwide scheme looks to find loving temporary foster homes for the thousands of dogs in care, and not only does it help get homeless dogs ready for the loving homes they

deserve, but it's very rewarding for the fosters carers too with 70 per cent people surveyed admitting caring for a dog has a positive impact upon their wellbeing.

Alison Creaon, Home From Home co-ordinator at Dogs Trust Bridgend, said: "We have thousands of dogs of all shapes and sizes across our 20 rehoming centres in the UK looking for temporary carers, varying from older dogs who need some extra TLC, litters of puppies, dogs recovering from illness and those who simply cope better in a home environment.

"Dogs Trust covers all fees and foster carers can go on to adopt their foster dog permanently should they wish. The average stay for a dog in a foster home is three to four weeks, although some dogs can be fostered for up to eight months and some for just a weekend."

Ysgol Gyfun's double home success in Barry Rotary Youth Speaks

Rotary president Carl Kerr with winning senior team, left to right: Elin Alexander, Nia Brown and Tirion Davies.

ON Monday, January 23 the Rotary Club of Barry held the first round of the Rotary Youths Speaks competition, one of several competitions organised by the Rotary movement specifically designed to develop students' skills.

The event was held in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

Winners in the intermediate section (11 – 13-year-olds) were the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, whose chosen topic was 'Is Social Media a Blessing or a Curse?' Chairperson was Megan Leonard, speaker was Sara Jones and the vote of thanks was given by Fflur Bowen.

In the senior section (14 – 18-year-olds), the team from Ysgol Gyfun

Bro Morgannwg were also the winners.

Their team was chaired by Tirion Davies, their speaker was Nia Brown and their vote of thanks was given by Elin Alexander. The team's chosen topic was 'Is Modern Education Destructive?'

In line with national rules, team speakers had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic. The judges were retired headteacher Eleri Hourahane, associate Rotary member Beth Longley, and Audrey Hirst from the Barry Soroptimists.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Beth Longley congratulated all participants, saying that they had set some very high standards. President of Barry Rotary Club, Carl Kerr thanked Rotarian Ann Harhry, who had co-



ordinated the event and everyone who had supported the competition and wished the winning teams every success in the next round to be held in Cardiff Golf Club.

Rotary has 1.2million members (men and women) worldwide who form a global network.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm. If you would like further information, speak to club secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or look online at www.rribi.org.



The winning intermediate team, left to right: Fflur Bowen, Sara Jones and Megan Leonard.

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Black comedy – and good music at Porthcawl's Shop of Horrors



The plant is getting bigger and stronger...



Above: (Left to right): Mitchell Davies (Mr Mushnik); James Evans-Jones (Seymour) and Molly Brace (Audrey). All photos by MALCOLM NUGENT.

(Continued from page 14)

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (CAST AND PRODUCTION)

CAST

Seymour – James Evans-Jones; Audrey – Molly Brace; Audrey 2 – Anna Arrieta; Mushnik – Mitchell Davies; Dentist – George Neeson; Ronnettes – Elin Morris; Maddie Dawson; Lauren – Ellis-Stretch; Blythe Hughes-Davies; Keeley Fry; Megan Morris.

Bernstein – Daniel Knowles; His assistant – Lucy Vinen; Luce – Lydia Pickett; Her assistant – Patrick O'Neil; Snip – Jack Williams; His assistant – Sarah Williams; Patrick Martin – Siobhan Cartwright; Customer 1 – Daniel Knowles; His wife – Phoebe Howells-Hopkins; Interviewer – Sophie Wells.

PRINCIPLE ENSEMBLE

Lucy Vinen; Lydia Pickett; Patrick O'Neil; Jack Williams; Annabelle Morgan; Siobhan Cartwright; Daniel Knowles; Sophie Wells; Lowri Howell; Katie Williams; Phoebe Howells-Hopkins.

CHORUS

Saiorise Davies; Alice Webber; Rhiannon Mainwaring; Rebecca Adams; James Grandon; Thara Hopkin; Amber Cliffe; Tessa Castanera-Webber; Georgia Baglow; Chloe Green; Charlotte Evans-Jones; Millie Fry; Karah Watkins; Jenny Passingham; Daisy Brown; Rhiannon Tuckett-Jones; Robin Edwards; Hannah Griffiths.

Strong;

Georgina Anderson; Alice Cox; India Clatworthy; Holly Sinclair; Ewan Aitchison-Hough; Jamie Harrowing; Owen Thomas; Rhiannon Drummond; Carys Morgan; Eve Manley; Finley Hemsley; Olivia Pownall; Max Williams; Keighan Dyer; Joshua Russell; Jaycie Dyer; Grace Ward Smith; Elodie Guillem; Carys Rosser-Stanford; Elys Davies; Abbie Audsley.

Production Team

Director – Miss Kelly Hardwick; Musical Director – Miss Rhian Thomas; Choreographer – Miss Rhian Thomas.

Production Manager –

Mr Joe Smith. Assistant Director – Mrs Kathryn Lewis.

Stage manager – Sam

Stables.

Deputy stage

manager – Samantha Timbrell.

Assistant stage

managers – Katie Pickett and Lauren Slaughter.

Crew – Jessica Adams.

Puppeteer – Mr Joe Smith.

Band

Keyboard 1 – Alexandra Hunt;

Keyboard 2 – Laurence Hunt; Guitar – Dave

Jefferies; Bass – Jack

Bridger; Trumpet 1 –

Simon Gray; Trumpet

2 – Rhiannon

Keirl; Reed 1 – Heidi

Davies; Reed 2 –

Phillipa Richards;

Percussion – Huw

Griffiths.



ABOVE: It's Audrey's death scene.



ABOVE: George Neeson (centre) played the sadistic dentist.



It's the end of the show, and little Audrey 2s are ready to be sent all around America.

Businesses make awards shortlist

TWO Bridgend-based businesses have been shortlisted for a Welsh business award at the South and Mid Wales Chambers of Commerce Awards next month.

Richard Pring, co-founder and co-owner of Wales Interactive, a multi-award winning video games developer and publisher based in Pencoed, is a finalist for Young Entrepreneur of the Year; while RockIT's house of IT professionals – which started in Bridgend and now provides services across the UK – has been shortlisted for Growth Business of the Year.

The 2016 awards, celebrating their 15th anniversary this year and sponsored by the University of South Wales, will take place on Thursday, February 23 at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. The event will be hosted by TV presenter Gethin Jones for the second time.

"The Chamber's Welsh Business Awards have become an important date in the nation's business calendar – not only for celebrating our members' success but also for recognising the qualities that have enabled these businesses to succeed," said Heather Myers, director of the South and Mid Wales Chambers of Commerce.

"It has been a challenging year for our businesses. No one really knows what Brexit will mean for them.

"Despite this uncertainty, Welsh companies continued to excite and innovate, and we're pleased to be able to celebrate that spirit."

The Welsh Business Awards were launched to recognise the achievements of new and established businesses across a variety of sectors in

Wales. Finalists range from well-known charity Tenovus Cancer Care and the not-for-profit Abergavenny Food Festival, through to innovative agricultural technology start-up, Phytoponics.

Newport-based legal conveyancing firm Convey Law was named overall winner of last year's awards. Having established a conveyancing academy – the first online training portal in the conveyancing industry – it also scooped an award for its commitment to skills and people development at both the Welsh and British awards.

"To be judged against other fantastic businesses in Wales and be successful was a wonderful achievement, particularly given we had stepped outside our conveyancing profession to evaluate our business against others outside our industry," said Lloyd Davies, managing director of Convey Law.

"The Chamber Awards – both regionally and nationally – were very special events and we are very proud to have played a part in the process. Taking part has assisted a small part of our business to grow into a significant aspect of what we do."

Siwan Rees, director of USW Exchange at the University of South Wales, said the university was delighted to be sponsoring the awards again this year:

"Through our partnership with the South and Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce, we hope to help support their members by providing expert advice and encouraging business development and growth."

The winners of each category have the opportunity to progress to the British Chamber Awards when entries open in the spring.

World War Two re-enactment day

ON Saturday, June 10, Bridgend will step back in time – to World War Two.

The town centre will be transformed back to the 1940s with demonstrations, period games and activities that were commonplace during the war.

Many of the activities will be educational for people of all ages and activities will include toy soldier painting, 1940s cookery and poppy-making, as well as a 1940s' dance.

Musical entertainment will take place throughout the day and a Winston Churchill sound- and look-alike will make an appearance around the town. Field Marshal Montgomery will also be on parade.

Other activities set to take place are a photographic exhibition by Bridgend & District Local History Society, a wartime display by Michael Ridley and a talk on Island Farm by Brett Exton.

This event will be a unique experience in historical terms for the Bridgend area and will be great fun for all the family. It will be staged throughout Bridgend town centre from 10am – 5pm on Saturday, June 10.

Further details can be found on www.facebook.com/wartimebridgend/

PORTHCAWL AT WAR, FEBRUARY 1917: Land girls and Buffaloes enlist on home front



The Rock Hotel.

IN February 1917, the German Navy sank 230 ships, bringing food and other supplies into Britain. The following month, a record 507,001 tons of shipping was lost as a result of the U-boat campaign. However, Britain was successful at increasing food production and the wheat harvest of 1917 was the best in our history.

This success coincided with the formation of the Women's Land Army. Women had been encouraged to help on farms since early 1915, but some farmers resisted taking on women workers.

It wasn't until February 2, 1917 that the organisation was officially recognized. By the end of 1917, 260,000 women were working as farm labourers with 23,000 women in the land army itself. Lady Sybil Thomas, wife of Lord Rhondda, Minister for Food visited the Bridgend area, encouraging women between the ages of 17-50 years to enrol.

Under the chairmanship of John M Randall, County Councillor for Bridgend, the Women's Agricultural Committee for Glamorgan devised the local scheme under which recruitment took place. 'An applicant for work on the land will be required to sign a form agreeing to come up for interview when called on, and on receiving seven days' notice to undertake whole time work wherever she is sent, and to remain there, if required, to the end of harvest, 1917.'

'After medical examination she is to receive: 1. A free outfit, consisting of boots, gaiters, breeches and a coat. 2. Free instruction and maintenance during instruction, for not more than four weeks. 3. All necessary travelling expenses in connection with her employment.' ('Llais Llafur' The Voice of Labour, February 24, 1917.) Basic pay was 18s per week.

The farms in Nottage may have benefited

from 'land girls', but in the town of Porthcawl, it was the residents who tilled the soil. The Porthcawl Allotment and Gardener's Association supervised the creation of allotments in and around the town. By 1917 the Mercies (end of Queen's Avenue) and the College Fields (land behind the Seabank Hotel) once the venues for many sporting and seasonal events, had been converted into food production.

Such was the march of cultivated land that Henry Studt presented Porthcawl with a motor ambulance for the use of the Rest Home, on condition that his summer carnival be held there. This gift coincided with a further 113 soldiers arriving at the Rest Home, that month.

Further, where there was a propensity to food waste, towns and villages were encouraged to promote pig-keeping among locals.

Porthcawl filled this requirement handsomely, and as a result, various Porthcawlians teamed up to manage what became referred to as 'pig-farms'. It certainly suggests that Porthcawl was more fortunate than some other places in Britain regarding the supply of foodstuffs.

Incidentally, despite the successful harvest that summer, due to a prolonged heatwave the government continued to ration bread. The slogan remained 'Save the Wheat and Help the Fleet.'

The intense heat that summer contributed to the death of Corporal Robert Thomas John, Brisbane House, New Road. In February, his parents had received the news that he had been brought home from France and transferred to the 2nd Southern Hospital, Southmead, Bristol, 'with sickness contracted by fumes from oil gas.'

(Porthcawl News February 22, 1917.) Corporal John did not recover and died on June 17. The matron of the hospital wrote to his parents: 'Please accept my sincerest sympathy on the death of your dear son... he passed away most peacefully... the great heat seemed

to try him very much. All the nurses join in sending their sympathy.' (Porthcawl News June 28, 1917)

Sadly, such letters were all too common, yet researching Robert's life and reading his obituaries in the Porthcawl News, it is clear that he was very well liked and respected throughout the town. 'Bob,' as he was known, was the eldest of eight children, born in 1886, to Jenkin and Catherine John. He involved himself in the life of the town, being a member of the Porthcawl Coastguards; and as a keen sportsman, played for and later on became part of the Porthcawl Rugby Football Committee.

Friends and fellow committee members referred to him as being reliable, hardworking, a good listener and mediator. According to his friend Private Jack Turner, Bob was always scrupulously fair. His motto was 'I will play the game'.

Play it he did for his country in time of war. From August 1914, Bob served as a Special Constable in the town before enlisting in the Inland Water Transport Section of the Royal Engineers in February 1916. The Royal Engineers was a natural draw for him because in civilian life Bob had been a crane driver at the local sawmill, which backed on to Popular Crescent.

Following his death, his body was brought home to Porthcawl. Corporal John's funeral at St John's Churchyard, Newton, was attended by several hundred Porthcawlians - at the time one of the biggest in the town's history.

Returning to the question of providing Porthcawl with sufficient food, criticism was levelled at the PUDC for not supporting national schemes as enthusiastically as they should have. Most of the initiatives of 1917, as with the allotment scheme, were taken on and run by local groups.

The 'Porthcawl Pals' was another such group in which local businessmen contributed financially to improve the lives of servicemen. Social events were held, such as afternoon



Porthcawl Coastguard 1910, Bob John fourth from left.

teas at the Esplanade Hotel for soldiers at the Rest; or hosting musical evenings at the Coliseum.

It was this group that took up the call from the national government to consider the New War Loan Scheme. In an attempt to help finance the war, bonds were originally sold promising 5 per cent interest to private investors under the slogan: 'Unlike the soldier, the investor runs no risk.'

Patriotically, on February 10 at the Carlton Restaurant, the Porthcawl Pals War Loan Society was formed with the intention of applying for a £9,000 loan. Those present took on £3,400 that night, and it was proposed to recommend that the PUDC take up £2,000 of the loan. At a special meeting of the Porthcawl Council held on February 13, the motion was passed. According to one observer, the good name of Porthcawl had been redeemed.

Interestingly, the outstanding £1.9 billion debt, for the 1917 War Loan was redeemed by the UK Treasury on March 9, 2015.

Another society that found support in Porthcawl was The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, known colloquially as 'The Buffs.' Its aim was, and still is, to aid members and other charities. The Buffs supported the war effort through supplying ambulances to bring wounded soldiers back from the front, each one manned by volunteer Buffs.

After the war, the Buffs' ambulances formed the first ambulance service in Britain. Despite the war affecting national membership, with many lodges closing in February 1917 the Porthcawl branch held its first annual dinner at the Brogden Hotel. By the end of the war the lodge had moved to The Rock Hotel. Today the nearest lodge is in



Southern Military Hospital, Bristol.

Pencoed.

The overriding tone of this month's article is one of helping others to survive and to support the war effort. Yet in desperate times people also take matters into their own hands.

In the pursuit of food, poaching rabbits (referred to as 'conies,') became all too prevalent. Chasing conies often led to trespassing.

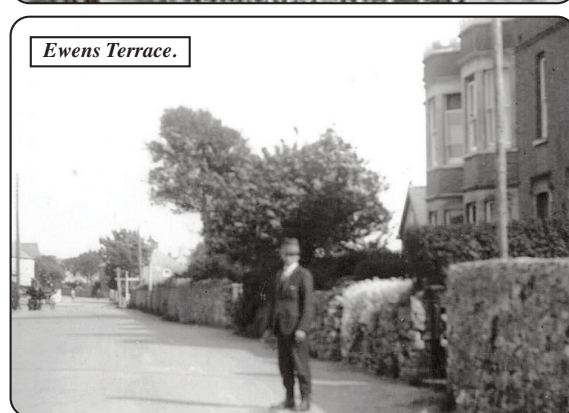
William and Peter Jones of Ewens Terrace, Porthcawl, were summoned before the Bridgend Magistrate for trespassing at Tythegston, on land belonging to Evan Howells of Laleston. Their address is worthy of note, as Ewens Terrace was the original name for the part of Newton Nottage Road, from the junction with the main road to the Globe Garage.

The magistrate fined them both, yet it was not this outcome that warrants our attention but the fact that PC Stockford hid behind a bush watching them work the whole field, catching many conies, before apprehending them! It makes one wonder what happened to the evidence!

Brisbane House, showing Bob's parents and sister Margaret.



Ewens Terrace.



BRIDGEND SOROPTIMISTS' GET-TOGETHER



Bridgend Soroptimists at their New Year 2017 dinner.

BRIDGEND Soroptimist Club held its annual New Year dinner in the St Quentin's Suite at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on January 25.

Twenty-six members were able to attend and enjoyed a superb dinner in the company of president Sue Davies – good food, friends and fellowship – and even a quiz, courtesy of member Ruth Davies-Kemp.

For information about the Soroptimists, check out website sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district/. SI Bridgend Facebook www.facebook.com/BridgendSoroptimists. EB

'Bounce and Rhyme' baby classes



AWEN Cultural Trust is working in partnership with Halo Leisure to hold one of its popular 'Bounce and Rhyme' sessions for babies and toddlers in the JumpINGym at Bridgend Life Centre.

Helen Pridham, libraries operations and innovation manager at Awen, said: "Our Bounce and Rhyme sessions have been growing in popularity since we moved into Bridgend Life Centre in November 2013, and each session is regularly attended by more than 20 parents and carers

with their children each week.

"To accommodate the growing numbers, it seemed the obvious next step was to move one of these sessions into the JumpINGym, a purpose-built safe and secure environment for young children.

"It's an ideal location next door to the library, so that parents and carers can still borrow any books or use our digital services during their visit."

The interactive sessions are run by a member of the library team and include a selection of favourite nursery rhymes, new songs and simple stories, which parents and carers can then use

as part of their everyday life. Everyone is invited to stay and socialise over a cup of tea at the end of the session.

Helen added: "Research shows that rhymes and songs at an early age improve children's language development and literacy skills.

"Babies love to hear the sound of the human voice; they don't mind if they don't

know the words or can sing in tune, the sessions are all about having fun!"

"The same applies to physical activity, so we are delighted that the children will be enjoying words and a mini fun 'work out' in our JumpINGym indoor soft play area", said Simon Gwynne, Halo Partnership manager.

The free sessions will take place from 11am-12pm every Friday in term time.

Help is available with fuel bills

THE Bridgend MP is urging people who are struggling with energy bills to seek expert advice, as new research highlights many people are not aware of the help that is available.

Madeleine Moon, said that debt charity Christians Against Poverty warns that personal debt can affect all areas of a person's life causing loss of sleep, putting a strain on relationships, leading to poor physical and mental health – and even risking their home and livelihood.

Seeking help sooner rather than allowing debt problems to develop and escalate is the best way to reduce these negative consequences, says the charity.

Mrs Moon said: "January can be a financially difficult time for many, so I'd strongly advise anyone who is worried about their energy bills to get help and advice by calling their energy supplier, or seeking help from a debt counselling charity like Christians Against Poverty.

Its helpline can be reached on 0800 328 0006.

"There is lots of help out there – so there's no need to feel alone or let bills build up."

Christians Against Poverty offer face-to-face support at home while negotiating with creditors on behalf of their client.

The charity helps

everyone for free, regardless of age, gender, faith or background.

British Gas in addition to its partnerships with Christians Against Poverty and StepChange, offers direct help to customers who are having difficulty paying their bills, with interest-free debt repayment plans.

They also make referrals to the British Gas Energy Trust (BGET) helping people with debt problems through grants and expert advice.

In some cases, BGET will clear a customer's arrears completely. Contact BGET on 01733 421 060 or visit www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk for more information.

British Gas advisers will also check to see whether a customer is eligible for grants such as the Warm Home Discount, and offer access to energy-saving measures.

British Gas has also registered 1.5 million of its customers on the Priority Service Register, which offers additional help for disabled or chronically ill customers and those of pensionable age.

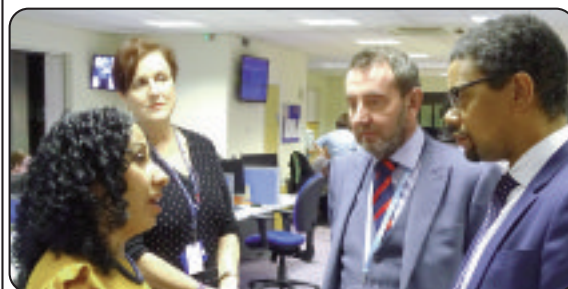
To find out more, call 0800 048 0404.

Porthcawl lighthouse image wins award for a local photographer



BRIDGEND-based photographer DAVID HOLDHAM has been awarded 'The Societies Landscape Photographer of the year 2016' for a image captured of Porthcawl lighthouse during a storm.

Health chief's visit to out-of-hours care hub



Mr Gething talks to GP Dr Ameera Brett (left) with NHS Direct Wales/111 interim clinical operations manager Stephanie Kneath and Dr Stephen Bassett.

HEALTH Secretary Vaughan Gething has visited a service providing urgent out-of-hours care for people in the ABMU area with complex health needs.

A team of experienced GPs, nurses and pharmacists is available during evenings and weekends to expertly assess and refer them to the most appropriate treatment.

Known as the clinical support hub, it specialises in specific types of patients, ranging in age from the very young to the very old.

Community-based health professionals, including district nurses and paramedics can also access the hub for on-the-spot specialist advice – in some cases, avoiding the need to bring people into hospital.

Mr Gething said: "It was great to see this clinical support hub, which serves patients with a range of complex healthcare needs in their local community.

"In addition to providing expert out-of-hours clinical care, this service also supports patients and community health professionals to choose well and use

alternative services to of antibiotics for example."

The hub focuses on patients with a range of complex healthcare needs, including the very frail and elderly, children under two years of age, people requiring end-of-life care and those with mental health issues.

Based at the NHS Direct Wales centre in Swansea, it was initially set up in November 2015 as part of the early preparations for 111 Wales now being piloted in Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

Instead of having to ring different numbers to contact NHS Direct Wales or GP out-of-hours, people can now call 111 to reach both.

Dr Steve Bassett, GP out-of-hours lead for 111 Wales, said: "The clinical support hub includes very experienced GPs who work regularly in the out-of-hours service and have a great deal of local knowledge.

"We have nurse advisors with an enormous amount of experience in assessing and advising.

"Finally we have pharmacists, who don't just advise on medicines management but also on a range of minor illnesses, and help reduce unnecessary prescribing, future.

'Road markings need changing' – reader

AFTER reading The GEM article headlined 'Is there a location on the road network that concerns you?' – well, yes, there is...

As you leave Brynccethin towards Bridgend driving around the roundabouts, there are two lanes: the left lane for going to Bridgend and the right lane for going to the shops. But the lanes are painted wrongly when you go around the first roundabout.

Two lanes lead to Maesteg, when one should only be towards the shops and outlet.

I have seen many accidents – in fact, one only last week. I have had cars approaching me from the left nearly hitting me as they turn for Maesteg.

The markings need to be altered as soon as possible to avoid further serious accidents.

Anthony Coles, Brynccethin

Maesteg PACT

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT, February 6 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

OGMORE VALE/NANTYMOEL PACT on Wednesday, February 8 at Dinam Close Sheltered Accommodation at 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on Wednesday, February 15 at The Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

BETTWS PACT on Thursday, February 16 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT on Monday, February 27 at Blaengarw RFC (The Halfway) at 6pm.

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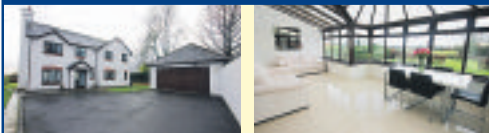
CLOS Y FULFRAN, BARRY



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- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage

£425,000

OLD FORGE, BONVILSTON



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- 4 reception rooms
- Double garage
- Stunning views

£650,000

THE GRANARY, BONVILSTON



- 5 bedrooms
- Under floor heating
- Annexe potential
- Double garage

£650,000

LLYS TRE DRW, BRIDGEND



- Detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- Private parking
- Under 10 years NHBC warranty

£169,950

THE SYCAMORES, LLSWORNEY



- Detached character cottage
- 4 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Large gardens

£465,000

37 HIGH STREET, LALESTON



- Private parking to rear
- 3 bedroom
- Modern interior
- Charm and character

£240,000

EWENNY ROAD, BRIDGEND



- Bay fronted semi detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 reception rooms
- Extended and improved

£215,000

HENDRE, COLWINSTON



- 5 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage
- South facing gardens

£595,000

THE MEADOWS, CORNTOWN



- 3 bedrooms
- Semi detached property
- Cul de sac position
- Conservatory

£210,000

BROOKFIELD ROAD, MAESTEG



- 3 bedrooms
- Conservatory extension
- Under floor heating
- Private parking

£125,000



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RESIDENTIAL



Heol Sirhwi, Barry - £254,950
Three bedroom detached chalet bungalow. Cloakroom. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Bathroom. DG. GCH. Enclosed gardens front and rear. Driveway. Garage, offered for sale with no chain.



Well Walk, Barry - £305,000
Three bedroom semi detached comprising: Entrance Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Fitted kitchen. Downstairs w/c. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Driveway for two vehicles. Well presented and set in the highly sought after Knap location.



Earl Crescent, Barry - £139,950
Three bedroom end link property. Entrance porch. Open plan living room. Kitchen. Bathroom with separate w/c. Enclosed rear garden. Property benefiting from UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. EPC rating: E.



Romilly Park Road - £390,000
Five bedroom semi. Entrance porch. Hallway. Three reception rooms. En suite, shower room and family bathroom. Loft space. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed gardens.



Colcot Road, Barry - £344,950
Extended, Spacious and beautifully presented three double bedroom detached residence. Architectural plans for a double storey extension. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Family room. Kitchen with integral dishwasher and washer/dryer. Dining room. Shower room, family bathroom to first floor. Boarded attic space. GCH, UPVC. Large garden, driveway, garage. EPC - D.



Coronation Street, Barry - £112,950
Two bedroom mid terrace property. Two reception rooms. Extended kitchen/dining room. Bathroom to first floor. Enclosed, south facing garden. EPC rating: C. Ideal first time buy or investment property.



Curnix Barn, Moulton - £475,000
Four bedroom barn conversion with two pony paddocks. Planning consent to extend. Approx set in one and a half acres. Reception hall. Open plan living accommodation. Wet room. Utility room. Master bedroom. Family bathroom. DG. LPG GCH. No chain.



Nant Talwg Way, Barry - £299,950
Four bedroom detached. Hallway. Lounge open to dining room. Downstairs w/c. Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Family bathroom. Shower room. GCH. UPVC DG. Enclosed rear garden. Front garden with driveway. Garage with utility area, and remote door. EPC rating: D.



Lavernock Point - £26,000
Two bedroom holiday chalet. Located in the popular Marconi Holiday Village. Open kitchen/living area, modern bathroom. Combi boiler. Paved area to front. Shared facilities swimming pool, children's pool and playground. No chain.



Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry - £220,000
Three storey town house. Shower room. Utility room and bedroom three to ground floor. Living room and kitchen/dining room and two en suite bedrooms to second floor. GCH/UPVC DG. Rear garden. Off road parking for three vehicles. Integral garage.



Lakeside, Barry - £425,000
Four bedroom semi detached residence situated on the Knap. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge/dining room. Family room. Conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Family bathroom. UPVC DG and GCH. Enclosed garden to front and courtyard garden to rear. Small driveway and secure carport.



Meadow Vale, Barry - £139,950
Three bedroom mid link property. Entrance porch. Living room. Modern kitchen/dining room. White bathroom suite. UPVC DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway and additional parking space nearby. EPC rating: C.



Cledwen Close, Barry - £211,950
Well presented three bedroom semi. Entrance porch. Hallway. Through lounge/dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Conservatory. Breakfast room/office. Utility room. Modern white bathroom suite. UPVC DG and GCH. Off road parking. Garage. EPC rating: D.

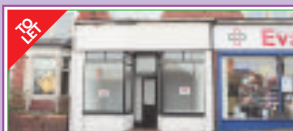


Fontygary Road, Rhooose - £249,950
Three double bedroom semi detached. Lounge. Dining room. Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Study. Downstairs cloakroom. Bathroom and separate w/c. UPVC DG, GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway up to five vehicles. Detached single garage. No chain.



St Pauls Avenue, Barry - £159,950
Four bedroom bay fronted terrace property. Entrance hallway. Lounge. Kitchen/dining room. Family bathroom. Bedroom four with en suite w/c. UPVC DG. GCH. Basement room. Rear garden. EPC rating: D.

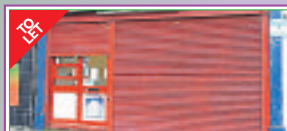
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Park Crescent - £450 PCM
Newly refurbished shop in the West end of Barry. Retail shop front, kitchen facilities and w/c. In easy access to Cardiff and M4 corridor.



12 York Place - £12,000 Per Annum
Opportunity to lease suite of six offices plus board room set over two floors, situated off busy High Street, Barry. Floor Area Approx 101m/1087ft. Kitchen and toilet facilities. Two allocated parking spaces to rear. Low maintenance courtyard. Flexible terms.



17 Broad Street - £8,500 P/A
Large main retail area, rear storage rooms/office, basement, kitchen and toilets. Possible change of use to A3.



Holton Road, Barry - £8,000 P/A
Shop, ground floor and basement, situated on the west end side of the busy thoroughfare of Holton Road. Flexible terms. Strictly by appointment with Knights Estate Agents.



Unit 15 Palmers Vale Business Centre - £365,000
The property is located on a secure multi-unit business centre, in easy access to Cardiff and M4 corridor. Internal area 6,000 SQ FT (557.5 sq m) with a large surfaced concrete yard that is fully enclosed with palisade fencing and two entrances. Unit comprises of internal offices and a large warehouse space.



Holton Road, Barry - £16,000 P/A
An opportunity to lease a large ground floor shop with basement in excellent order. Access to rear. The property would suit a multitude of purposes being well situated in Holton Road.

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Sea Point, Barry - £500 Per CM

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Holton Road, Barry - £300 Per CM

One bedroom studio style flat, First Floor, Unfurnished, Separate shower room, Separate fitted kitchen, Electric heating, Double glazed, Town centre location.

Vere Street, Barry - £600 Per CM

Two bedroom luxury apartment, Refurbished to a high standard, Ground floor, Open plan living area, Fitted kitchen with appliances, Bathroom with shower attachment, Gas central heating, Double glazed, Close to the train station, Communal court yard.

Windsor Road, Barry - £900 Per CM

Six bedroom mid terrace house, Unfurnished, Two reception rooms, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Utility room, Downstairs cloakroom, Bathroom with separate shower, Gas central heating, Rear enclosed garden, Very close to the train station.

Bell Street, Barry - £625 Per CM

Three bedroom mid terrace house, Unfurnished, Through living room/dining room, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Upstairs bathroom, Gas central heating, Double glazed, Enclosed rear garden, Close to Romilly School, Easy access to the train station.

Glan-Y-Mor, Y Rhodfa, Barry - £650 Per CM

Two bedroom unfurnished apartment, Unfurnished, Good size living room, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Family bathroom with shower, En suite shower room, Gas central heating, Balcony overlooking the Waterfront, Close to the train station, Allocated parking space.

Acron Close, Barry - £675 Per CM

Three bedroom mid link house, Good size family accommodation, Unfurnished, Fitted kitchen/diner with appliances, Downstairs w.c., Bathroom with shower, Enclosed rear garden, Gas central heating, Double glazed.

LETTINGS

01446 701333

Tondu RFC notch up half-century in dominant display



THIS game between Cwmavon and Tondu took 13 minutes to burst into life but ended in a half century for a rampant Tondu.

Their first try came from a rolling maul with Matthew breaking loose to score, and then seven minutes later full back Aled Jones crossed for the second try, this time converted by Josh Tatchell.

Some hard work from the backs sent Jones over for his second try just three minutes later to give Tondu a 17-0 half-time lead.

A cracking break by centre Matthew Davies brought the bonus point try early in the second half which was

converted by Tatchell, and the fifth came from winger Sam Grabham with a wonderful finish.

The floodgates were now clearly open and Tondu scored three further tries in the final 10 minutes.

Flanker Rhys Samuels' try came first, then a quick penalty saw Aled Jones sail through for his hat trick.

But Jones wasn't finished there, after good work from Matthew Morgan and then Scott Walters, Jones added his fourth try; Tatchell kicked the conversion to give Tondu a resounding 50-0 win which keeps them top of the table.

Tondu are home to Penlan this Saturday, kick off 2.30pm.

MS

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, January 25: First, Liam Sheridan and John Beard; Second, Geoff Tinkler and John Henson; Third, Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner. The winners on Handicap were Geoff Tinkler and John Henson.

Thursday, January 26: First, Geoff and Christine Tinkler; Second, Stuart Davies and Margaret Roach; Third, Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett. The winners on Handicap were Stuart Davies and Margaret Roach.

Friday, January 27: First, Liam Sheridan and John Beard; Second, Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins; Third, David and Norma Newman. The winners on Handicap were Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins.

Regular club nights

take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Noltion Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early to enable a prompt start.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Noltion Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session where advice is available on the bidding.

Master points are awarded while remaining a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

Lessons for beginners take place on Thursday mornings at 11.30am; there is usually a seminar at 1.30pm for those who are playing in the afternoon.

For further information about the club contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649136.

DN

Porthcawl earn resilient win over Baglan RFC

WITH second-placed Bridgend Sports' match having fallen foul of a waterlogged pitch, Porthcawl welcomed third-placed Baglan to South Road, for what turned out to be a tremendous match.

Having bagged the spoils in the early season match, Baglan arrived with the intent of winning this match too but the home side held firm throughout and deservedly got a vital win.

It was the visitors that drew first blood however, as they capitalised on an early breakdown of Porthcawl possession 40 metres out and livewire scrum half Rhys Davies hacked through and won the race for the opening try, with barely five minutes gone for 0-5 as the conversion fell short.

Porthcawl's pack was again displaying a readiness to take the game to Baglan as they drove time after time into the visitors' territory, allowing the backs to put pressure on Baglan's defence.

When a scrum close to the Baglan line saw the Porthcawl pack shove the Baglan scrum backwards before collapsing.

Referee David Swain awarded a penalty try which Josh White converted to put the Seaweeds ahead at 7-5.

Full back Dan Bleddyn pulled back a penalty for Baglan with his big boot punishing a



James Burge-Davies finds himself tackled by a Baglan defender. PICTURE BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.

Porthcawl offside for a slender 7-8 lead, while White came agonisingly close with two successive penalty shots at goal for Porthcawl, which would have restored the lead.

White however, made amends minutes later when he fired over a good goal from 38 metres for 10-8, before a breakthrough score put the Seaweeds further ahead at the break.

A solid line-out 20 metres out saw Porthcawl's pack shunt Baglan backwards with a mighty surge and flanker James Burge-Davies, again having an outstanding match, came up last with the ball having touched down for the try.

White's exceptional conversion from the right hand touchline put Porthcawl ahead at 17-8 to end the half.

Baglan are a determined and well-drilled outfit these days and enjoyed some

superiority of their own early in the second spell as they resorted to up-the-middle tactics to gain position.

When Porthcawl fell offside at a ruck 24 metres out and in front, Bleddyn kicked his second penalty for 17-11 but with a short while White had cancelled those points out as he slotted another penalty from 38 metres for 20-11, effectively winning the match.

Baglan had other ideas as they chased the match going into final minutes, earning a corner lineout.

However, the returning Nick Nutman at lock for Porthcawl, stole the attacking throw-in and Baglan's last chance was gone.

Porthcawl further cemented their place at the top of the division but with a tough away trip to Crynant on Saturday, they will need to be on top of their game once again. PF



Morgan Jones hands off two would-be tacklers. ALL PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

Poor start proves to be Pencoed RFC's undoing



David Young.



Jake Lloyd.

VISITORS Morrision raced into a 17-0 lead in the opening 15 minutes against Pencoed.

Christopher Shill opened the match scoring with a penalty goal before scrum half Gareth Thomas scored with a fine individual 60 metre effort, which Shill converted.

Morrision soon got a second, wing Ross Mainwaring racing over for Shill to convert.

Pencoed then proceeded to dominate the middle part of the match creating several chances during the second quarter before sustained pressure from a dominant scrum gave them the platform for scrum half Rhys Clark to use the blindside and hooker Rhys Pilliner handled before second row Ricky Somers crossed wide out.

Pencoed continued to press but the score remained 5-17 at the interval.

Pencoed then scored a superb try on the resumption of play, spreading the ball wide in their own 22 to set left wing Ryan Russell free down the touchline before feeding the supporting Clark on the inside and the final transfer saw centre Morgan Jones race over from 30 metres out; Jake Lloyd added the extras.

Then came a somewhat fortuitous score for the visitors; with Pencoed on top at

this juncture, the home three again moved the ball wide.

However a breakdown in midfield saw visitors centre Matthew Morris hack the ball downfield and with all the home backs committed to the move, Morris patiently steered the ball to get the touchdown and a crucial score, which Shill converted, and the visitors led 12-24 against the run of play.

The Pencoed scrum was now dominant but once again in attack the last pass let them down, with a score likely before good driving play from the pack saw Somers drive over for

his second try.

Going into the final minutes Morrision put the game out of Pencoed's reach, capitalising immediately on a home yellow card to cross in the left hand corner.

To their credit Pencoed returned to the attack and good combined play saw David Young getting the try bonus point, along with a valuable losing bonus point.

Pencoed will reflect on an opening quarter which ultimately cost them the match, and a little more accuracy in their attacking play will bring results.

TR

Bruce is backing Welsh rugby XV!



THE Six Nations kicks off this weekend, and rescue dog Bruce, the pet of local photographer Susan Dobbs, has no doubt about which team he will be supporting!

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Family Notices

JENKINS

John Henley Fisher

Peacefully at home in Bridgend on January 19, aged 80 years. Much loved brother of Colin, Mary and the late Henley and their families. Fondly remembered by his nephews and nieces. Funeral service to take place at St Iltyd's Church, Newcastle, Bridgend on Wednesday, February 8 at 1pm, followed by interment at Bridgend Cemetery at 2pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to JR & MF David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, telephone 01656 880308.

GODDARD

David (1971 – 2017)

Following the tragic death of David in Ecuador, his funeral for family and friends will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Monday, February 6, at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only. A service of thanksgiving will be held in the summer to celebrate his life.

FREDERICK

Kathleen

Passed away peacefully after a long illness at Llandough Hospital on Saturday, January 21. Beloved mother of Hilary, Kelvin and Sharon. Loving grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, February 7, at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to East Ward 18, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Cardiff.

JONES

Beryl

On January 27 at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Residential Home, Porthcawl, Beryl, aged 95 years, of Cowbridge. Beloved wife of the late Emrys (Maesteg). Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral strictly private.

EVANS

Jean (née Lambert)

Peacefully at home on January 27, 2017 with her daughter present, Jean, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Leslie, much loved mum of Linda, Chris and daughter-in-law Gail. Adoring grandmother of Lee and Anton, great grandmother of Luke, Jamey and Lexie and great great grandmother of James, Ethan and Oliver, sadly missed by her sister Edith. Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 12 noon, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only.

WILLIAMS

Violet (Vi)

Peacefully on 20th January in Llandough Hospital, Vi, aged 92 years, of Barry. Devoted wife of the late Ken, adored mum to Dale, Deanne and Phil. Much loved mother-in-law to David, Alan and Chris. A cherished nan and great grandmother to her 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She will be forever missed and never forgotten xxx.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in St John Baptist Church Sully on Wednesday, 8th February at 11.45am, afterwards to Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, for the British Heart Foundation c/o the funeral home.

ROWLEY

Ivy (Née Turner)

Suddenly but peacefully on 27th January at University Hospital Wales, Cardiff, Ivy, aged 106 years, of Barry. Beloved wife of the late William, previously Roy. Mother of Alan, Kimber and the late Gareth.

Ivy will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Tuesday, 7th February. Service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 3pm.

Alan wishes to thank all the staff at Orchard House and Park Road for the wonderful care given to Ivy.

WHITE William (Bill)

Peacefully at home on January 22nd - Bill, beloved husband to the late Daphne, much loved dad of Debbie, Ian and their families, loving brother to Ron. *He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.*

'Reunited with Daphne'

Bill is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until his service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Friday, 10th February at 1.15pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Bill's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you may also leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations to support The RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of Bill.

STANLEY Grace

Peacefully on January 20 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Cardiff, Grace, formerly of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of Dick, dearly loved mother of Jean and John, Graham and Jan, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Monday, February 13, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Alzheimers Society c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

GIBBONS Gaynor Alice

Peacefully on 27 January at UHW Cardiff, Gaynor Alice of Jenner Street, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Michael, a loved mother of Jeff, Wayne and mother-in-law of Paula and Jeff's wife, the late Vinda, and also his long term partner Helen. Cherished grandmother and great grandmother. Gaynor will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, February 9. Service in the chapel at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

MORRIS

Dennis Lyndon (Den)

Peacefully on January 19th at University Hospital of Wales - Den, a well known entertainer within Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan. Much loved dad to Wayne & Simon.

Den will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of Den's life at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 9th February at 2pm.

No floral tributes by request. Donations, if desired, may be made via Den's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations to support The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Den.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

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Family Notices

MORRIS
Den

Suddenly passed away and taken away from us, but at rest with his beloved and adored wife Jane.

Much loved stepdad to Dawn, James and grandfather to Morgan, Bethan and Ciaran.

You will always be in our hearts but you are now back with mum.

LLOYD**Michael George**

Peacefully on 20 January 2017 at Singleton Hospital, Michael of Llantwit Major (retired B.T. Engineer).

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Tuesday, 7th February at 2pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Flowers, or donations to Cancer Research UK, may be sent to the Funeral Home (cheques only for donations).

ALLEN**Elizabeth Epton**

Peacefully on January 20 at Milsom House, St Athan, Betty of East Abethaw. Beloved wife of the late Arthur (formerly of Rhose Service Station), will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, February 8, service 1pm at Penmark Church, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales c/o J. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MORGAN**Charles Christopher**

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 19th January 2017 after a long and prolonged illness, Charles, aged 65 years, formerly of Days Medical Aids, Bridgend. Devoted husband of Marilyn, much loved dad of Gareth and Rhys, also loved by Katie, bamp to Emilia and 'our Charlie' to Cerys and Bethan.

Charles will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 9th February 2017 at 12 noon, followed by Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family cut flowers only. Donations, if so desired, for Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, c/o the funeral director.

MORRIS
Dennis

You will always be missed - forever in our hearts.

Your loving sisters, brother and brothers-in law.

In Memory

In Memory

NORTHWAY**Bill**

February 4th

Three long lonely years without you.

Loved and missed more than ever by me

and all our family.

Bless you.

Love Eun

xxx

In Memory

NORTHWAY**William Job (Bill)**

Passed away 4th February 2014

In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.

All our love, Eunice, Jane, Tosh, Esther, Mike, grandchildren and great grandchildren xxx

ANN SUTTON
'SOOTY'

Closed her eyes on the 6th February 2011.

Never to be forgotten, Never to be replaced.

Everyday I think of you even though we are apart, but the love we shared for all those years will always remain in my heart.

Love Ken xx

KAGED**Christine**

Never more than a thought away,

Loved and remembered everyday,

Miss you more as time goes by,

Our love for you will ever die.

Loving Husband Nagi and family.

xxxx

Birthdays

Happy Birthday
on 8th February**GARETH JAMIESON**

Love from all your friends at the Gem x

**Mary Hemlock**
Happy 80th

Birthday Mumsie
on 5th February

Much love on your very special day.
From Alison, Aaron, Caitlin, Susie, Paul, Paige & Chris xxxxxxx



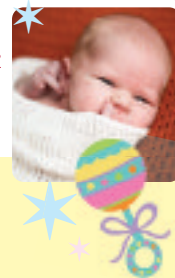
Birth

Joseph James Clark

Born on 7th January 2017

Welcome to our little man! We love you so much and wish you all the best in the world.

All our love, Mummy & Daddy, Becki & Edward Clark.



Lost

Missing Dog

Max went missing on his walk at Llandow Industrial Estate on Friday 27th January.

We are desperate to get him back. If you have seen him, please call Sharon on 07722 427725 or Sally on 07500 774527.

**MISSING**

Since Friday from the Palmerston Community Hall area, Barry. **RAGDOLL CAT** - Microchipped. Please contact 01446 737653

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Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Quality Office Supplies Limited trading as South Wales Paper Team of Anchor Lane, Coseley, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 9NE is applying for a licence to use Unit 63, Vale Business Park, Llandow, CF71 7PF as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: I, Alexander John Howells, do hereby give notice of an Application to The Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority for a new Premises Licence at Hare & Hounds, Maendy Road, Aberthorn, CF71 7LG known as Hare & Hounds.

The application is to vary the licence to allow for supervised children under 16 to be allowed in the public bar area before 9pm. This is partly to allow for families to dine in the bar area, as well as to allow families to sit in the bar area before/after dining in the restaurant area.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to The Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU. Not later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000. SIGNED Alexander John Howells DATE 27.01.17

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday**Ewan Andrews**

on February 6th
We are all so proud of the charming lad you have turned into!
Lots of love Mum, up nan and down nan. xx



Visit **The GEM** online for the latest stories and breaking news...

Six contenders with eyes on the title, but... WHO WILL BECOME THE KINGS OF EUROPE IN THIS YEAR'S SIX NATIONS?

THE world's oldest (and, arguably, greatest) rugby tournament kicks off on Saturday, February 4, with Eddie Jones' high-flying England launching their bid for a back-to-back Grand Slam at Twickenham against France, the team they crushed 31-21 to clinch the coveted Six Nations title in Paris last spring.

All told, across the old Home Nations tournament and its successor, the Five Nations (with the advent of France), culminating in the Six Nations – when Italy joined the exclusive northern hemisphere club in 2000 – the English lion has claimed a total of 27 championship wins, with 10 shared.

The Welsh dragon, despite the many dark years when it languished in the international wilderness, is breathing down its old rival's neck, just one behind with 26 championship titles (plus 12 shared) including 12 Grand Slams – the last one in 2013 – having been the first to claim an historic back-to-back Grand Slam in years 1908/1909 during Welsh rugby's first golden age.

England have won 13 Grand Slams, including (three

by Don John

back-to-backs in seasons 1913 and 14; 1923/24, and 1997/98. The Gallic cockerel has won nine Grand Slams, while second favourites Ireland, who face Scotland on the opening day of the tournament, have won two; but that ultimate prize has so far eluded the Scots (though they had claimed the old Five Nations title three times); and the steadily-improving championship 'minnows', Italy, are also currently empty-handed.

This year, for the first time, the goalposts have been moved in a bid to open up the old tournament, bring it in line with other competitions, and make it a more entertaining, free-scoring spectacle, with a revised scoring system being trialled: four points for a win, two points for a draw, one point for scoring four or more tries, and one point for losing by no more than seven points.

In addition, the Grand Slam winners will be awarded three extra points to avoid risk of any anomaly by ensuring

they top the results table at tournament's end.

Hopefully, the experiment will achieve the desired aim, but whether it has a game-changing effect on the final outcome remains to be seen, with many pundits already anticipating a straight shoot-out between England and Ireland in a Six Nations title showdown at Twickenham on March 18.

There is, though, a lot of water to flow under the bridge before then, and the still-smarting, ever-unpredictable French will be aiming to torpedo that expected scenario by sinking their old enemy at Twickenham – on the same opening day that the resurgent Scots aim to dash the smile from Irish eyes at Murrayfield.

...And none of them, of course, can afford to discount the red dragon's challenge, for caretaker head coach Robert Howley's Welsh camp will have points to prove – in more ways than one.

It all promises to be another enthralling Six Nations contest, with final placings key to the May draw for the 2019 Rugby World Cup – and there is the added lure of a Lions' tour to New Zealand in the offing!

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

WHILE Penarth Hockey Club's promotion bid continued on two fronts last Saturday, there was also the minor distraction of chasing a place in Europe to consider over the weekend.

Penarth travelled to Merthyr on Sunday for the culmination of the Welsh Indoor Hockey season, and were extremely unlucky not to come away as national champions.

Following relatively easy wins against inexperienced sides from Gwent (15-0) and Swansea University (8-1), the Bears renewed old rivalries with 2016 runners-up Swansea City. In a tense and high-paced game, Penarth eventually triumphed 4-2 to set up a 'winner takes all' contest with reigning champions Cardiff & Met.

The contest of the day saw Penarth dominate for long periods in a closely-matched and emotionally-charged game, but it was the opposition who seized a vital advantage.

Having conceded an early lead, a combination of bad luck and the experienced Cardiff & Met side taking full advantage of their limited opportunities when ill-discipline reduced Penarth's numbers saw the Vale side turn around facing a 3-1 deficit, having closed the gap just minutes before the interval.

Despite the half-time scoreline, this was still a game Penarth could - and should - have won, as they dominated the second half, hitting the post twice in a matter of seconds. However, despite their intense pressure, they were unable to breach the Cardiff & Met defence again and the 3-1 final scoreline did disservice to the immense efforts of the Seasiders.

The disappointment of finishing second – and narrowly missing out on the opportunity to represent Wales in Europe next season – was palpable on the faces of skipper Marcus Powell, coach Ben Croxall and all the Penarth players and support team.

However, while it will, perhaps, be viewed as an opportunity missed, the performance was another measure of just how far Penarth have progressed in their short time back in the indoor version of the game, and as a club on the whole.

PENARTH 5, SWANSEA CITY 1

The first XI's stop-start resumption of the 2016-17 GoCrea8 campaign continued, after the previous weekend's game in Swindon was frozen off, against old rivals Swansea City.

Welcoming their foes to the 'Bears den' at Stanwell School, Penarth were looking to maintain their pursuit of a second successive promotion, this time from Conference North – a bid buoyed by favourable results around them either side of the Christmas break.

Swansea arrived lacking several senior players, but brought a team full of youth and, with plenty of running, made the better start to proceedings. Orchestrated by stalwart Jonny Gordon in midfield, the visitors caused Penarth problems and created several chances early on, forcing the home side to call on goalkeeper Simon Comfort to make some smart saves and keep them in the game.

The Bears were clearly struggling to find their shape and rhythm after a week off but, with pace to burn in attack, still looked dangerous on the counter and eventually began to create good chances of their own. Tim Urlings got in behind the Swansea back line on more than one occasion, particularly when fed by Ben Croxall's searching aerials, but was repeatedly denied by the superb Swansea keeper.

Having found themselves on the back foot for large parts of the first half, Penarth's extra penalty corner practice paid dividends, as Laith El-Khatib fired his second effort of the afternoon low to the 'keeper's' right to give the Bears the lead against the run of play.

As expected, however, Swansea refused to give in, and quickly replied with a penalty corner routine of their own that, despite Comfort getting a foot to the ball, was enough to bring the scores level.

Just as the game looked like heading into half-time all square, Penarth won another penalty corner right on the whistle and, while El-Khatib's initial effort was saved, the rebound fell to Urlings, who fired in on his reverse to maintain a remarkable goal streak since joining the club.

After a half-time pep talk, Penarth came out the blocks with much more intensity second time around and immediately put their opponents on the back foot. The pressure resulted in a crucial third goal early in the half, as El-Khatib, finding himself with time in the

'D', lined it up and smashed it home to put the Bears in control for the first time in the game.

Where Swansea's youthful energy was their strength in the first half, their inexperience proved a weakness in the second. Picking up several cards for cynical challenges and back chat took the game away from them, and Chris Baker took full advantage of the situation to score the pick of the afternoon's goals.

Receiving the ball in his own half from a 16-yard hit out, Baker beat several players on his way to the opposition 'D' before playing his own game of 'keep ball' and flicking high into the net to put the game to bed.

El-Khatib would bag another before the end to round out his hat-trick, this time picking up the rebound for his own first effort and making no mistake second time around, again flicking the ball high to the 'keeper's' left to give Penarth a 5-1 victory.

A workmanlike performance from Penarth saw them carry on their march down the promotion trail, but Swansea had a lot more to be proud of than the 5-1 scoreline suggested.

Clearly lacking several senior players, the visitors' youth more than stepped up to the late, causing problems for Penarth throughout and playing with great spirit, with only for a few indiscretions denying them a much tighter game.

SWANSEA CITY A 3, PENARTH A 3

Penarth's second XI made the opposite journey, to Swansea, knowing that a win could potentially take them up to second place in De Cymru 1.

However, it was a much-changed pack of Bears who made the trip west, with over half the usual team unavailable.

With several key players missing, Penarth were forced to call a number of third and fourth XI players into the squad, and started the game with only eleven players and two strikers playing in the back four, with last season's league-winning captain Matt Birch filling in at centre back and fourth XI protege Tom Griffiths occupying the left back role pending the arrival of James Davies from umpiring duties.

Despite being denied the chance to warm up properly due to some unnecessary watering at their end of the pitch, the weaker team on paper did not show it on astroturf, and started the game well, with Dave Watkins dispossessing the Swansea centre back before being unable to convert the chance. The Vale side had a few more half-chances, but it was Swansea who eventually took the lead, against the run of play.

A controversial penalty corner was initially repelled by the Penarth defence, but the home side pinched the ball back in the final third and, after a square pass was wildly swung at - and missed - by the player at the front post, it was converted at the back post to put the hosts 1-0 up.

Penarth protested that the wild swing was dangerous, but their complaints were waved away and the goal stood. To compound the setback, the lead was soon doubled, this time via an excellent goal as the hosts moved the ball all over the pitch before firing in a good cross that was slapped home, just out of goalkeeper Adam Putt's reach at the back post.

Penarth refused to let their heads to drop and kept attacking, eventually being rewarded by pulling a goal back shortly before the break. Continuing to press the Swansea back four, the Bears won possession by dispossessing the right back, before some neat passing allowed Chris McCarthy to find debutant Griffiths, who showed excellent composure to flick the ball in off the post.

Penarth could have been level before the interval, as McCarthy continued to create chances, this time for skipper Sam Chick, whose dink over the onrushing keeper was well saved. The rebound was then hit goalwards, but crept wide after deflecting off a Swansea foot. No penalty corner resulted, leaving the sides split by a single goal at the end of the half.

Despite the half-time talk being about starting the second period quickly, it was the hosts who had the first chance, only for some fantastic last-gasp defending by Davies and Craig Llewellyn to repel the threat and set up a Penarth counterattack that eventually brought the sides level.

Andy Strong carried the ball from the edge of the Penarth 'D' into the opposition half, beating several men before finding McCarthy, who himself left opponents in knots before smashing the ball home on the reverse to make it 2-2.

Not content with a draw, Penarth kept attacking and, with Sam Salisbury and Jack Jopson particularly influential in the build-up - as they were all game - were rewarded with a penalty corner just minutes later. Receiving a perfect feed, Strong's shot was well-struck, firing into the bottom corner to complete the comeback and put the Bears ahead for the first time.

Penarth could well have extended their lead as they remained dominant for the majority of the half, but were to pay for their wastefulness in the final minutes. Andrew Hornby, who had been a rock all game, was unduly penalised for a tackle on the edge of the visitors' 'D' and, to rub salt into the wound, the free hit was subsequently upgraded to a penalty corner following a conference between the umpires. To complete the inevitable, the corner was flicked home to deprive Penarth of a well-deserved three points.

Although captain Chick would have accepted a share of the spoils before the game, given the squad he had travelled with, the pain of missing out on victory was amplified later in the afternoon when it became apparent that second-placed Bridgend had lost their game, giving the Bears a chance to draw level on points had things gone their way.

GWENT B 3, PENARTH C 0

The 'C-Siders' travelled to Cwmbran for a morning encounter with their fellow 'Men of Gwent' and, despite finding their hosts bolstered by the inclusion of several second XI players, produced the usual close encounter between two well-matched teams.

Eager to secure a result that would close the gap on their third-placed opponents, Penarth began strongly and were dominant throughout the first half with man-of-the-match Rhys Meddens and Morgan Salisbury featuring prominently. It was only some exceptional goal-tending from the young Gwent 'keeper that kept the scoreline blank at half-time.

Gwent came more into the game following the resumption, and this time Penarth 'keeper Luke Williams had to be the equal of his more experienced counterpart to keep the home attack at bay. Williams could do little, however, when, following a sharp save from a Gwent penalty corner, the rebound fell to another attacking player, who forced the ball home.

Penarth needed to alter their formation in order to try and find a way back in to the game but, with skipper Nick Pratt proving oddly off colour and ineffective in attack, it was the Gwent side who were able to create more chances, two of which were converted to secure a strangely lop-sided 3-0 scoreline.

The result sees the 'C-siders' travelling to face Swansea City side equal on points with them at the foot of De Cymru 3 in what must now be a 'must win' game in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon. **This weekend sees all four Penarth sides in action for the first time in 2017, with the first XI heading to Devizes for an early start and the seconds hosting De Cymru 1 leaders Cardiff University at Stanwell (noon start) in what will likely be the toughest match-up in their promotion bid.**

The 3rd and 4th XIs, meanwhile, are both in De Cymru 3 action, away at Gwent and Swansea City respectively.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

Impressive away win for Barry Town United

WITH 15 played and 15 to play, Barry Town United have reached the mid-point of their Welsh League Division One campaign - and hopes are high at Jenner Park that the side can build upon a fine first half by mounting a successful second half championship challenge.

After the gruelling Nathaniel MG Cup final with The New Saints, manager Gavin Chesterfield rang the

changes for the trip to Afan Lido, bringing James Dixon, Callum Sainy and Louis Gerrard into the starting line-up alongside midfielder Troy Greening, 10 months after the injury that curtailed his 2015-16 season.

Nevertheless, it was two of the Town's cup final standouts who proved to be the difference in Port Talbot, with forwards Jordan Coterill and TJ Nagi hitting the target at the Marston Stadium and helping the visitors into a commanding two-goal lead.

Welsh Premier

League mainstays for a number of seasons, Lido would offer a late reply to rouse their home support, but the Reds never threatened to stop Barry from claiming all three points, in what was one of the Town's most impressive excursions all season.

The 2-1 victory was Barry's third successive league success on the road and with second-placed Cambrian & Clydach held to a 1-1 draw by Monmouth, the win sets the table for the Town to leap into second should they beat Cwmbran Celtic at Jenner Park on Saturday (2pm kick-off).

With Cambrian fixtureless this weekend, Barry supporters will be hoping their team can extend its unbeaten run at home in the league, while following events at Plough Road with additional interest, as leaders Goytre entertain Taffs Well in another 2pm encounter.

Having secured a haul of 10 wins and four draws from their 17 outings to date, Goytre currently stand three points clear of Barry in the Division One table, albeit having played two more games than their Vale of Glamorgan adversaries.

Chesterfield will see his options bolstered on Saturday by the return of James Saddler, Chris Hugh and Tyrell Webbe, each of whom having featured in Wales' futsal internationals against Moldova, Greece and San Marino last weekend.

Admission for the match between Barry & Celtic will be £5 (adults) at the turnstiles, with concessions available for senior citizens and children.

Meanwhile, the club has paid tribute to popular defender Bobby Briers this week, after the former Carmarthen Town and Haverfordwest County man moved on to fellow Welsh League outfit Pontypridd Town.

Arriving at Jenner Park in the 2012-13 campaign and featuring in that season's Welsh Cup semi-final against Prestatyn Town in Newtown, back-to-back champion Briers would appear more than 100 times for the Barry first team, becoming an established penalty taker for the side in that time and scoring the crucial spot kick that saw off Cardiff Met in October's Nathaniel MG Cup quarter-final.

AC

THE NEW YEAR BRINGS A NEW DEPARTURE FOR CAMERA CLUB

AFTER the excesses of Christmas and the New Year celebrations, Barry Camera Club members started the year on January 6 with a talk by John Tillesley, of Dorchester Camera Club, entitled 'Street Photography and Candid Portraiture'.

Street photography is one of the niche interests in photography and it was very welcome to have such an accomplished practitioner show us his work. The prints he displayed were taken at a wide range of events in his locality and were mostly in black and white, some taken as long as 35 years ago on film cameras.

Some of the images he had taken on cameras that are today considered very 'low-tech', were of fabulous quality, which proves more than anything that the photographer is more important than the equipment.

John let us into his secret to successful street photography, which is to keep on trying and keep returning to places until we get a feel for the people and the event. This was a very interesting evening presented by a most accomplished speaker and was very well received by the membership.

The 13th of the month was a new departure for the club with a presentation from Llanelli-based duo, Sleepy Robot Photography, devoted to experimental photography based mainly around compositing and post camera processing, using the ever-popular Photoshop program.

One interesting project has been their using themselves as models to create shots that are in the style of famous artists,

including the extremely popular Jack Vettriano; however, they also undertake more mainstream work such as ballet, landscapes and natural history subjects putting their own slightly unorthodox style to the finished work. On January 20, we were shown the highlight images from the Cheltenham International Salon 2016, presented by Richard McCleery of the Cheltenham Camera Club. The Salon is an important annual competition open to professional photographers and amateur clubs across the country and abroad with an open subject matter, and this year has attracted nearly 7,000 entries.

We were shown inspiring images from the travel, creative, monochrome and nature categories. Success in salon events is a prestigious achievement and we are very pleased to see one of our members, Tina Haydon, having acceptances for the second year running.

As always, the month concluded with our monthly competition night. This month the judge was Keith Sharples, of the Monmouth Camera Club. Keith felt that some images had been a little over-processed, resulting in a 'noisy' finish, but made very favourable comments on the overall quality of the work presented to him.

He went on to explain how hard it was to separate the very best of the images as they were all of extremely high standard, however he eventually decided to make the following awards:

Monochrome print: commenting on the very good number of entries, Keith awarded first prize and 20 points to Mike Lewis for 'Brecon Winter'. Barbra Archdale-Smith gained second place and 19 points for

'Look At That Leaf' and third spot with 18 points was taken by Glenn Porter for his 'JP - Tax The Heat'.

Colour print: this was a closely fought contest with some very high marks being awarded, however Keith finally settled the competition by awarding 20 points and first place to John Dudley for 'Evening Flight', second place and 19 points to Barbra Archdale-Smith for her 'Trio Of Colourful Homes' and third place with 18 points to Hugh Winnan for 'Watching The Watchers'.

Projected image: this section was, as always, the most hotly contested section with 34 entries this month. The winner with 20 points was Tina Haydon for 'Beauty Sleep'. An excellent showing from our resident natural history expert Steve Everitt gained him second place, scoring 19 points with a shot entitled 'Elusive Bittern' and also third place and 18 points for 'Good Morning'.

February promises to be an interesting month with visits from Dave Green and Roy Carr, a seven-way battle at the Vale Camera Club, Ystradowen and our monthly competition.

Throughout the rest of the year we have a full programme of talks, demonstrations, photographic expeditions, competitions and inter-club battles planned. New members will be made most welcome.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry (CF62 6NX). For more information, visit our website www.barrycameraclub.co.uk and check out our Facebook page.

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing January 16 are as follows:

Division 1: Family and Friends (S Loveless, H James 24) 252, SV Gals (C Provis 31) 262; Pila Palas (S Barnett 35) 347, Special Angels (T Scully 31) 288; Bakers Dozen (A Haive 31) 280, Barry Stars (M Richards 29) 257; Red Admiral (P Peters 25) 228, Coppers (S Curtis 26) 236; Space Finders (J Snooks 36) 327, Colcot Ladies (M Snelling 30) 275; Family Affair (Sandra Wilson 29) 233, Allsorts (R Dawe 27) 228; Bobby's Biirls (S Snelson 29) 253, Cigar Ladies (L James 31) 295.

Division 2: Roller Coasters (J Fairweather 24) 242, Witchill Weebies (S Dobinson 28) 229; After Eights (I Harvard 32) 248, Witchill Widows (L Spyron 31) 271; Breakaways (V Martin 31) 268, Rhoeuse Starlights (K Bryan 32) 284; Clickies (J Williams 33) 303, Airways Angels (J Thomas, A Crook 28) 256; Fallen Angels (J Tudor 27) 241, Merry Makers (G Hawker 25) 205; Castaways (K Billings 31) 269, SV Lights (M Briscoombe

34) 267.

Division 3: Rebels (L Saunders, R Sutton, K Gammon 27) 263, Little Devils (J H Jones 28) 267; Vixens (N Sheppard, H Jones 27) 265, Westenders (KM Condon, H Coomers 27) 273; Rugby Triers (E Nicolau 30) 236, Challengers (B Binding 25) 240; Hill Billies (M Brinkworth 34) 299, Uptown Girls (J Cosslett 34) 312; La Belles (S Davies, N Cordy, S Webber 31) 329, SV Ladies (L McGiven 37) 317; Witches (V Walters 27) 228, Twilight (S Haysom, A Campbell 26) 127; Dolly Mixtures (C Abbott, L Marsh 22) 199, Etcetera (K Baker 24) 217.

Division 4: Off The Rails (L: McCormack 29) 245, Aristocats (M Moore 25) 174; Persuaders (T Danelson, M Whitehurst, E Gardner 23) 233, Booby Birds (A Lloyd 34) 264; Liberals (G Shiers 29) 229, Socialites (S Marks 21) 207; Witchill Wanderers (C Reynolds 32) 231, Guardian Angels (S Hooper 33) 286; Hell Raisers (J Mitchell 24) 228, Odd Bods (K Dutton 27) 191.

The next meeting will be on February 6.

MC

Dinas Powys Golf Club - ladies section results

THE new year competitions began on January 10, with a nine hole Medal:

1st Sue Bridle 45-9=36 nett, 2nd Sian Smith 47-10.5=36.5 nett, 3rd Ruth Yates 51-12.5=38.5 nett on back 3 from Annie Blackburn 48-9=38.5.

On January 17, a Nine Hole Stableford: 1st Sian Smith 17 pts, 2nd Dorothy Amery 16 pts, 3rd Audrey Harwood 15pts on back 6 from Ruth Yates 15 pts.

On January 24, a nine hole Medal: 1st Lisa Ryley 43-8=35, 2nd Maxine Hird 48-12=36, 3rd Ruth Yates 50-13=37.

RY

Women urged to 'Race for Life'

WOMEN are being encouraged to 'banish the winter blues' by signing up to Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.

Women of all ages, shapes and sizes can enter the Race for Life 5k at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend on Sunday, June 4.

Lisa Sweeting, Cancer Research UK's Bridgend event manager, said: "Signing up to take part in Race for Life is a great way for women to set themselves a new and exciting challenge for 2017.

"Race for Life events are non-competitive and participants can choose to walk, jog or run around the course.

Whether they plan to amble with friends or sprint to the finish line, every step they take will help to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

"Every day, 52 people

are diagnosed with cancer in Wales. Together, we can stop this devastating disease in its tracks."

"By taking part in Race for Life, mums, daughters, sisters and friends can make a real difference in the fight against cancer. We urge women to sign up right now and show their support."

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is a women-only series of 5k, 10k, 'Pretty Muddy', marathon and hiking events which raise millions of pounds every year in a bid to beat cancer by funding research.

For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, call 0300 123 1022 or visit www.cancerresearchuk.org.

To enter the Race for Life, visit raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

Beavers thank Round Table

BARRY BEAVERS swimming club were one of the lucky organisations to receive a toy donation from the Round Table's recent Santa Sleigh appeal.

They received toys that swimmers can play with and use in the water during club sessions, which will help to develop learners' basic water skills.

The Beavers would like to thank those involved with the Round Table for their generosity and goodwill.

Vale AM commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day



Jane Hutt (left) with Christine Lee at the Senedd.

AS part of Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on January 27, Vale AM Jane Hutt signed a Book of Commitment in the Senedd for Holocaust education and remembrance.

The Labour AM attended a vigil on the steps of the Senedd organised by Julie Morgan AM and the Cross Party Group on Gypsy and Travellers. A reading was delivered by Vale resident Christine Lee from the Romani Cultural and Arts Company.

She also attended Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Holocaust 'Reflection Evening' and said: "The evening was very moving, with poignant readings and music from pupils."

Local FoE opposes houses on green fields

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, February 7, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Several members attended the demonstration on Saturday, which was called by 'Reclaim the Power' at Aberthaw Power Station.

We need 'green energy' projects which make use of our tides, winds and the sun, not this polluting relic of the industrial revolution.

In connection with this action, members are setting up air quality monitoring test tubes throughout Barry and the Vale. The final results

will be published.

The group's planning officer, Max Wallis, argued against the Cosmeston green field housing development and the proposal to turn Five Mile Lane into a 60mph road through green fields and woodland, when he appeared at the public inquiries. Mr Wallis and the FoE group have consistently opposed the Vale Council's plans to build on green fields.

The group were pleased to see some councillors prepared to challenge the planning departments at their last planning meeting. We hope they will continue voting to protect the environment and stop over-development.

Keith Stockdale
Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth

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Injury forces Sully View firsts abandonment as seconds take on Old Pens

SULLY VIEW RFC, lying third in the table, travelled to second-placed Hirwaun looking for a victory that would reverse the league standings.

The opening exchanges were fierce and evenly fought, with play end-to-end, and then halfway through the first period, with outside half Chris Cummings kicking two penalties to the home side's converted try, disaster struck when flanker Peter Brown snapped his ankle.

The referee was forced to abandon the game as Peter could not be moved from the pitch as he lay in pain waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

Players, officials and spectators all wish Peter a quick and full recovery.

SULLY VIEW RFC SECUNDS 15, OLD PENARTHANS SECUNDS 29
OLD PENS gained a thumping victory on the season's opening day, and they travelled the short distance to local rivals Sully View expecting an easy double.

Although from the scoreline it may look that they got what they expected, the truth was a little different.

Both teams played an expansive game and ran hard good lines, but in the end it was the Pens who deservedly came out on top, as they were better at supporting the runners.

In a hard-fought first period both sides had turns of dominance and at the break the scores were level at 5-5.

It was the View that exerted the opening pressure, and when the Pens failed to secure the ball from their own lineout five metres from their own line, flanker Jake Haysham burst through for an unconverted try.

It was then the turn of the visitors to enjoy the best of play and territory, eventually levelling the scores 10 minutes before the break with a try almost identical to the one they conceded, pinching a Sully lineout five metres from the home try line.

Again the game was turned on its head as the View stormed into the attack for the remainder of the half, and were unfortunate not to take the lead on the stroke of halftime.

A Sully attack was halted illegally just inside the Pens 22, and fullback Nathan Taylor took a quick tap penalty, and looked odds on to score, but the last defender tackled him high, and the score was lost.

Fortunately for the defender, but not so for the View, the referee failed to give a card of any sort, or even a penalty try, and with the visitors now remarginalised in defence, the View opted to take a penalty kick, only to see Rhys Manford's effort sail wide, and the scores tied at the break.

This spurred the Pens, and within two minutes of the restart they took the lead, when they pounced on a poor View kick out of defence, moved the ball quickly across their hard running backs for an unconverted try in the corner.

Once again, the control of the game changed, as Sully took charge for the next 20 minutes.

After a series of drives in, and around, the visitors' 22 yielded several kickable penalties, which the View opted to run, and it was Manford that took a quick tap penalty five metres out to sneak through for an unconverted try.

Five minutes later, the Pens regained the lead, scoring a well worked converted try, again the result of good running angles and support play, although the View felt aggrieved as a couple of iffy referee decisions counted against them in the build-up.

From the restart, the View caught the Pens defence in possession, turned the ball over, and now it was their turn to show that they too could run hard and support the ball carrier, with flanker Nathan Szuchnik crashing over wide out for an unconverted try.

The critical, and most controversial, score came 10 minutes from the final whistle.

With a strong Pens attack crossing the home 22, the ball carrier was tackled, his support clearly over running him, and his offload a couple of metres forward, went unseen, by the referee, and even then the scorer was tackled before the line with fullback Taylor under him and the ball, only for a try

to be awarded, with an easy conversion following.

Sully now slightly overstretched themselves, as they sought to score another try to give them a try bonus point, and possibly a losing bonus point, and the visitors took advantage to score the best try of the game in added time, again demonstrating good hands, lines of running and support play.

Considering this was the View's first game for six weeks, and after criticism the previous week for their failure to manage to field a team, if they can train a little more, and get teams out regularly, then, on this fine display, there would be improvement and promise to see them become even more competitive in their remaining fixtures.

The next couple of months sees another period of disruption to fixtures, as the Six Nations is played, but as Wales play this Sunday, the firsts have a league fixture at home this Saturday against old rivals Cardiff Internationals Athletic Club (CIACs), kick-off 2.30pm - players to meet at the club by 1pm.

MJS

Cricket club's youth section announces sponsorship deal

LAST year Cadwaladers and Barry Athletic Cricket youth section began a unique sponsorship deal that heralded a working partnership.

Cadwaladers, located on the doorstep of Barry Athletic Cricket Club stepped forward to help out the youth section.

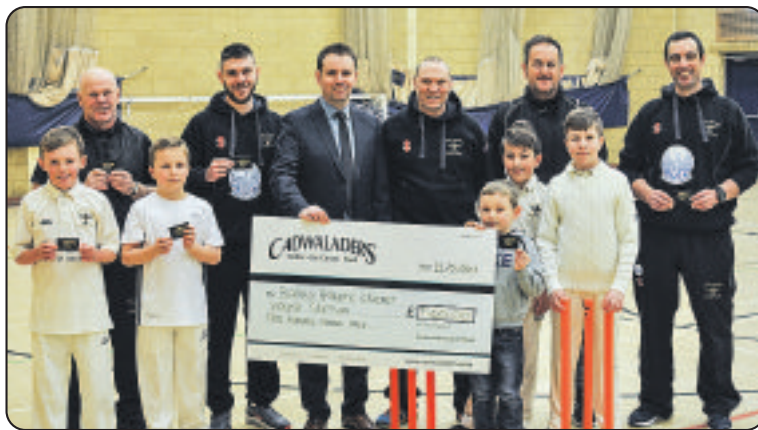
Cadwaladers not only stepped in with financial backing, they provided the location for parents to start and end the sessions with discount cards provided along with training jackets which the children proudly wore all season.

The partnership was such a success that with the 2017 season looming, Cadwaladers have kindly agreed to sponsor the youth section to enable the coaches to provide expert coaching and tuition.

Cadwaladers have been able to send nine coaches on courses to improve their knowledge.

These coaches have come from a variety of backgrounds, mostly via parents of children who have attended the youth section over the past two years.

Cadwaladers have had such a commitment to the club that they have attended numerous social nights and Paul Morton, the operations manager, was on hand to present the player of the year award at the presentation night held at the club in September,



2016.

Paul Morton commented: "Cadwaladers are proud to continue our involvement with Barry Athletic Cricket Club's youth section."

"We strongly believe sport is a great way of bringing local communities together and keeping people active and healthy. We are looking forward to cheering the team on in 2017."

With the youth section ever expanding and a new under-13s team entering the Cardiff and Vale Cricket Junior league, the partnership with Cadwaladers has been pivotal in the ongoing success of the club.

With the new building works taking place at the ground this year, the 127th in the club's history promises to be an exciting one with both the senior and junior sides looking for

promotion.

Mark Ellis, the youth section coordinator, commented: "This year promises to be the best yet with over 45 young members (both boys and girls) in the youth section ranging from six to 13 years old."

"In readiness for the new season we start indoor nets on Sunday, January 22, at Colcot Sports Hall from 2pm-3pm."

"Our partnership with Cadwaladers shows that local businesses can be of massive support to the club and we really appreciate all that Cadwaladers is doing to help us achieve our goals of producing talented Barry cricketers for the future."

Pictured is Paul Morton handing over a cheque for the new season to youth-coordinator Mark Ellis at one of the indoor youth sessions.

ME

Seven of the best from Barry ladies

BARRY TOWN LADIES went into their penultimate home game of the season in fine form having won their last six league matches as they looked to continue their charge toward possible promotion from the Women's Welsh League.

The Town were without a number of first team regulars for this encounter with Pontypridd but this gave the opportunity to manager, Adam Hewings, to rotate the squad and they didn't disappoint with a solid display and comfortable victory.

Midfielder and captain for the day, Tracey White, had a fantastic game working tirelessly and setting a great example to the rest of the team.

She was also in fine form in front of goal notching up her first hat-trick for the club with two headers from corners and a well taken shot.

The defensive line of Megan Davies, Hannah Moger, Emma Thompson and Emily Mortimore were rarely troubled as Barry spent the majority of the game camped in the Pontypridd half.

Striker Ffion Thomas was a constant threat scoring two goals and in particular, her pace often caused problems

for the visitors' defence.

Hungarian forward, Luca Laky has been in superb form this season, firing in the goals and once again, she found the net in this game with a well-taken strike.

Laky has become a pivotal player for the team playing in the No.9 role who is a strong and technically gifted player and enjoys bringing other players into the game.

Her development over the season has seen her become one of the top strikers at this level.

The influential Naomi Coulson also gave another fine display playing down the right of midfield and she continued her goalscoring form with a well-taken strike in the second half.

To their credit, Pontypridd worked hard throughout the game spending long periods without the ball, but they did force Barry goalkeeper Davies into a fine save with her feet midway through the second half.

The win maintains Barry's position at the top of the league for now two points clear of their closest rivals, Caldicot Town who have two games in hand.

The Jenner Park-based club now turn to League Cup action this Sunday as they travel to play Willows Ladies from the South Wales Women's League.

LW

Chess club stretched by competition commitments

THIS week saw the second round of the Welsh Premier Chess League.

It was followed on the next day by three matches for the Barry Chess Club.

This stretched our resources to the limit. For the Quarks team there was also a second match two days later.

In the Welsh Premier League The Vale made the short journey to Cardiff.

On paper, the teams were evenly matched, although we would have been looking to record our second victory.

However, it wasn't to be as we fell to a 4.5-1.5 defeat. Our points came from a win by Ben Thomas and a draw from Lee Davis.

After two rounds of play only Cardiff have two wins.

The Vale, Abergavenny, Nidum and White Knights all have two points so there is everything to play for over the final three rounds of play.

Elsewhere, two Barry players found themselves on opposite sides of the board when Abergavenny played host to Nidum. The two Matthews, Parry and Davies, shared the spoils.

The Bosons in division 1 lost

to North Cardiff by 3.5 - 1.5.

This is a big improvement on the reverse fixture.

Our points were collected by draws for Steve Cunliffe, Matthew Parry and Ken Hannah. We remain in mid-table.

In division 3, the Quarks hosted fellow relegation strugglers St John's College Neutrinos on Monday and then travelled to Cardiff to play league leaders Cardiff Dragons.

We started with a win against the Neutrinos by 3-2. We followed this up by defeating the Dragons by a marginally greater score of 3.5-1.5.

A total of seven players played for the Quarks in these two games with Stephen Bonutto taking pride of place in earning two victories on board 1.

With Bridgend C losing their match the Quarks have risen out of the relegation zone by 0.5 of a point.

In division 4, the Gambits travelled to Bridgend to play Bridgend D.

The ratings suggested we would lose on board 1 and 2 but win on 3 and 4 and draw the final match to share the spoils.

However, in the end we lost on 3 and 4 and drew on 5 to be in a seemingly difficult position.

With time running out, Phillip

Jones managed to squeeze a win against Bob Owen, leaving Sam White to play the decisive game.

Sam eventually won when his opponent, Wayne James saw his flag fall as he ran out of time.

Sam had only a couple of minutes left on his clock as well.

Still, we returned home with a draw which is exactly what I expected, albeit with different players being responsible for our points. The Gambits also remain in mid-table.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess, or just the occasional friendly game.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website, we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.co.uk>.

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JSTKD students put on a great performance

THERE was another great performance from Team JSTKD at the recent TAGB Midlands Tae Kwon Do Championships.

Nine intrepid competitors made the journey to Kettering, Northants.

This time, the team was made up solely of juniors, all of whom represented JSTKD admirably.

Team regulars Menna and Harri Burmingham, Josh and Sean Edwards, Alisha Roberts, Zak Grinter and Alex Munn were joined by two new recruits, Sion and Cai Selby who have both recently got their first yellow stripes.

Competitors must have a yellow stripe or above to participate and both boys were keen not to waste any time in getting their names on the score sheet.

The team got off to a flying start with Menna claiming bronze in the Girls Black Belt Patterns, Josh grabbing the bronze in the Boys Black Belt Lightweight sparring and younger brother Sean coming away with the gold in the Boys Black Belt Peewee sparring.

Great performances were also given in the colour belt events by Alisha, Zak and Harri as well as Alex, who fought on bravely

despite taking a hard kick to the head.

The newest team members certainly didn't let a lack of experience stand in their way.

Sion made an impressive debut with a fantastic effort which saw him win the gold in the Boys Yellow Belt Peewee Sparring event, while Cai's debut also resulted in success as he won bronze in the Boys Yellow Belt Lightweight Sparring.

JSTKD has classes throughout the Vale for all abilities from three years up to adults and offers a free taster lesson for new students.

Full details at www.jstkdc.co.uk.

VW

BLAST FROM THE PAST

CONTINUING our 'blasts from the past', which I am often told that you enjoy reading, here is another and under the heading 'Llewellyn Triumphs' - this is what I had to say.

John Llewellyn (Cowbridge) and Mike Williams (Bassaleg), the two best riders in Wales, fought out an exciting finish to a high-class men's open race at the Currie Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Saturday.

Victory went to Llewellyn who was riding *Nearly There II* for Mrs Catherine Hiorns. Mike Williams, riding *Fitz* for Mrs Rose Harry of Dinas Powys, put in a strong challenge between the last two fences and after jumping the last just behind *Nearly There II* was three lengths down at the winning post.

It was quick

consolation for Llewellyn, who looked like trotting home in the members' race on *North Gate*, only to fall at the last when well clear. Tim Rooney, a 16-year-old blacksmith from Marshfield, made every post a winning one when coming home eight lengths clear of the favourite *Brankley* in the maiden race.

The members' race that day was won by Bill Jones on *Tyro's Try* which had beaten the long odds-on favourite *Artist's Folly*. John Beavis won the Adjacent Hunts race on *April Delight* and the ladies' open race went to Wales' most prolific point-to-pointer, Tom Morgan's *Mandryka*, which with Shan Morgan in the saddle beat *Sampson Brass*.

The Vale's Eirlys Thomas finished third on her *Orange Pip*.

Rose Harry, Bill Jones and Mike Williams are sadly no longer with us but Tim Rooney went on

to become one of the best riders in Wales, and in 1977 he won the famed Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford on 50-1 chance *Devil's Walk*.

Cowbridge Road racecourse MEANWHILE, where was the Cowbridge Road racecourse in Barry situated?

I only ask because I have the official programme for the Bridgend 100 yards sprint, value £60, which took place there on August 7, 1926.

Heat one was won by R Howells, of Cefn Cribbwr, off nine-and-a-half yards. Another local winner was R Evans of Maesteg.

On May 28, 1927 at Maesteg Rugby Football Ground the Welsh National Whippet Association staged a Whippet and Foot Handicaps meeting. I know this because I have a collection of programmes for all sort of events from horse racing, point-to-point racing and greyhound racing.

The first race was at 3.30pm and luckily for me the programme,

which cost just two pence, has been fully marked so I can tell you the names of the winners.

The first event, heat one, of the 80 yards (which was for boys under 16) was won by S Lewis (Caerau) who had a 12 and a half yard start and he beat H Evans of Maesteg, who was off 12 yards.

Y Howard (Port Talbot) off 22 yards beat C Burns (Nantyffyllon) off 10 yards in the second heat.

In the final, Lewis won from H Evans (Maesteg).

There were three heats of the 120-yard open handicap which was won by AH Moore of Port Talbot. As for the whippet competition, there were 10 heats and the winner was Mr Lloyd's *Grand Lady*.

These events must have been popular in the Vale back then as the programme advertised another meeting that was due to take place on June 25 that year.

E-mail your news, views or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com

BRIAN LEE

David brothers are winners...

EVAN DAVID and his brother Tom from Llanharan, both rode winners last weekend, writes Brian Lee.

Evan won the open maiden on *Naylers Spirit* for Andrew Pennock at the Waveney Harriers fixture at Higham, and Tom took the intermediate race at the Heythrop meeting at Cocklebarrow on *En Passe* for Howard Pauling.

Wales's Jodie Hughes riding the Mickey Bowen-trained *The Ship Brien* won the maiden race at this meeting.

FARMERS TEE OFF AT COTTRELL PARK

COTTRELL PARK Golf Club, now firmly established as Wales' home of golf, hosted the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society last Thursday when 34 members had the privilege of competing for the many prizes supplied by generous sponsor Mr Gino Cocco of Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd.

Despite a biting cold wind all but three of those who started completed their round on the extremely well prepared Button course.

Those that finished were full of praise for the condition of the 'greens' and credit for this must go to Dan Jarvis and Paul Morgan who work tirelessly in producing a golf course that really was in excellent condition.

When all competitors returned to the clubhouse to join early leavers Godfrey Lewis, Bryan Wadham and Trevor Wooding it soon became apparent that a close result would ensue with just four points separating the top five finishers.



Winning golfers Martyn Edwards, Clive Thomas, Clive Edwards and Bob Bishop with sponsor Gino Cocco.

A final score of 31 stableford points for David Williams and John Caines was soon bettered by Clive Edwards who finished in third place with 32 points.

Runner-up with 33 points was Martyn Edwards who managed once again to claw defeat from the jaws of victory when failing to score on the 307-yard stroke index four 17th hole.

Playing partner Clive Thomas, claiming a generous handicap of 22, took full advantage of this collecting four points on this same hole to move into pole position.

Clive and Martyn both bogeyed the closing 18th hole leaving Llantwit Major farmer Clive to claim victory with 35 points and collect the Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd silver rose bowl.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes were Clive Edwards, guest Bob Bishop and also 84-year-old Aubrey Bowen, the recently 'retired' lumberjack from Penmark, after a quiet word in his ear from Mrs Bowen!

Overall winner Clive Thomas won the Bear Hotel Cowbridge sponsored longest drive

competition and Aubrey Thomas, despite a screw top bottle, managed to return home with a full bottle of whiskey provided by sponsors Premier Turf Ltd. Aubrey correctly guessed 38 balls would remain out on this wonderful part of God's country that raised £100 for the Noah's Ark Appeal Fund.

Members are now looking forward to the annual presentation dinner and dance scheduled for Friday, February 17 at The Bear Hotel Cowbridge; tickets available from Ray Simkiss - telephone 01446 774542.

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Barrivale Bridge Club RESULTS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 24:

1st Debbie Richards & Noelle Bond 62.70%; 2nd Irene Thomas & Sean Macdougall 57.14%; 3rd Mike Close & Kay Dyer 55.56%. Debbie Dawkins and Alan Jones won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

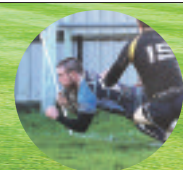
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WALES ARE GOING 'BACK TO BASICS' TO PROVE A POINT AGAINST AZZURRI

WHEN Wales kick off their RBS Six Nations challenge against Italy at 3pm on Sunday at Rome's Stadio Olimpico, there is precious little chance of them taking the so-called tournament 'minnows' lightly - new skipper Alun Wyn Jones warning: "it's going to be a tough opener against a passionate Italian side, as is always the case with them".

He is right to be cautious. Wales may have played the lowly outsiders 24 times since they first met at the old National Stadium in Cardiff on October 12, 1994, winning on 21 occasions, and rattling up 815 points to 400 against; but players and coaches in the Wales camp are under no illusions that there is more at stake

than usual in 2017, with potential World Cup rankings and the British & Irish Lions' tour in mind.

They will be out to make an immediate statement of intent, get off to a winning start, and silence vocal critics like ex-Springbok coach, Nick Mallett, who has written off a Welsh squad in 'transition' as genuine title contenders - even before a ball has been kicked in earnest - and says he "would not be surprised to see Italy win."

Last year in Cardiff, saw a dominant Dragon totally overwhelm the Azzurri 67-14, but caretaker coach Robert Howley's embattled camp will not fall into the trap of taking another try-fest for granted in this banana skin clash against g opponents, who can

by Don John

be a different proposition in Rome - as more than a few unwary opponents, including Wales, have found to their cost in the past.

Indeed, Italy's two successes against the men in red came in front of their own passionate home fans - winning 30-22 in 2003, and 23-20 in 2007 at Stadio Flaminio (sandwiching an unexpected 18-18 draw at the Millennium Stadium on March 11, 2006).

Nevertheless, with three out of four hard-fought autumn test wins under their belts, Wales might be expected to go into the opening game in confident mood, but those victories, commendable though they were, did not drown out the

persistent calls for a change in approach from well-versed aggressive-defence to the more free-running, skills-based style now in vogue around the world.

A typically forthright Alun Wyn tackled the vexed question of Welsh 'performance' head on when he met the waiting media for the first time, after taking over the captain's armband from Sam Warburton: "A lot has been said of the way we play and what we have and haven't done. We are a team that are potentially evolving and we are going back to basics," he announced. "The more we do with the ball, the better... I think it will be an entertaining Six Nations."

Looking to the opening weekend, he said: "Any team wants to get off to a flying start and (with extra bonus points at stake this year) to

make a good fist of the competition". He candidly conceded "England are the team to beat... they are well out in front at the minute, with the success and winning streak they are on" - but others too cannot be discounted, including unpredictable France.

The latter will be first up to take on the Grand Slam holders at Twickenham on Saturday, with second favourites Ireland facing the steadily-rebuilding Scots later at Murrayfield - giving early shape to the tournament, which will have been duly noted before Wales take to the field next day.

It could well provide just the incentive they need to launch their 2017 Six Nations challenge in style, with a convincing victory over the Azzurri - and prove Mr Mallett et al wrong!

Athletic up to third after bonus point win

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC made it successive league doubles and bonus points wins as they defeated Cwmllynfell away 22-13, running in four tries.

Banc Y Bryn is one of the highest pitches in Wales and boasts a considerable sloping playing surface which is always a difficult place to play.

A hailstorm just prior to kick off along with 24 hours' rain made the pitch very heavy and Cwmllynfell belied their lowly position with a passionate performance which left the result in doubt until the 70th minute.

Playing down the slope the home side played the opening 10 minutes mostly inside the Athletic 22.

They tried moving the ball but found no joy in breaking through the centre partnership of the experienced pairing Marc Bennett and Michael Hathaway aided by formidable defence from the back-row trio of Ben Howe, Stuart Edbrooke and Jonathon Howard.

When turnover ball was won Marc Bennett launched a counter attack running 60 metres along the wing before supplying a scoring pass for wing Harry Griffiths to cross in the corner. Full back Stuart Floyd-Ellis added an excellent touchline conversion.

The home side responded when they chipped through the Athletic defence for former Ospreys academy player wing Bowdy Davies to win the race to touch down in the corner.

Another long range break out from wing Garin Lougher saw a bout of handling involving half backs Dan James and Luke Bevan looking likely to score, only for the final potential scoring pass to the supporting Jonathon Howard being intercepted five metres from the try line.

Another bout of passing involving the front row of Matt Muir, Lee Murphy and Wayne Fooks saw Fooks force his way over for what he thought was a legitimate try.

Unfortunately the referee did not share his views and said he had been held up prompting a five metre Athletic scrum.

No 8 Stuart Edbrooke picked up from the back of the scrum and drew the blindside defence before releasing Dan James to dash through a gap to cross wide out to make it 12-5 to the Athletic.

The pattern of the remainder of the half remained the same with Cwmllynfell mainly attacking with

the Athletic using their backs to break from deep without any further scoring before the half-time break.

Bowdy Davies saved two further Athletic tries in the half coming across field to his opposite wing to make try-saving tackles.

Cwmllynfell changed their game plan in the second half keeping the ball tight in their big pack and using their half backs to pin back the Athletic with tactical kicking to prevent turnovers releasing the potent Athletic back division.

The Athletic were conceding too many penalties mainly not releasing the tackled person and holding on in the tackle, which kept the home side on the offensive.

From one such offence Bowdy Davies punished them with a well struck penalty from half way to reduce the deficit his side's deficit to 12-8.

With an upset on the cards the Athletic brought on experienced lock Griff Davies along with prop Lewis Davies.

Griff's ball carrying helped switch the forward momentum as the Athletic forwards in particular Chris John, Jonathon Stoker and Stuart Edbrooke started to pick and go to cross the gain line and supply the Athletic backs with possession on the front foot.

From a ruck with 10 minutes remaining the ball quickly reached centre Michael Hathaway 30 metres out in a two-on-two situation.

In a class move he rounded his own defender and cut inside the wing to cross wide out and open up a 17-8 advantage.

Sensing a bonus point the Athletic went straight back on the attack and good interpassing saw scrum half James make a break and put his supporting captain Ben Howe over wide out for his sixth try of the season. It was also the popular flanker's 100th first team point for the Athletic.

Cwmllynfell responded when inevitably Bowdy Davies used his pace to break the Athletic defence and put fellow wing Kieron Ace over in the corner.

The Athletic pack saw out the closing five minutes for a hard earned 22-13 bonus point victory to lift them into third place in the table with a game in hand on the two leaders.

This Saturday, February 4, the Athletic entertain Ammanford at Newbridge Fields.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC SECOND XV 7, BARGOED SECOND XV 5



LEFT: Michael Hathaway scores a try, while BELOW: Ben Howe was also on the scoresheet.

ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANNON.



Harry Griffiths scores.

AB



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